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Summary record of the 11th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 25 October 2007, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

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Agenda item 31: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

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07-57185 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 31: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/62/20)

1. **Ms. Chen** Peijie (China), commending the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) for its fruitful fiftieth session, welcomed its adoption of the set of conclusions of the Working Group on the Practice of States and International Organizations in Registering Space Objects, which would harmonize international practice and improve implementation of the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space.

2. Over the past 50 years, more and more States had come to realize that outer space was not only important as a space for national strategy and security, a reservoir of resources for sustainable development and a focus for scientific and technological advances, but was also becoming a new growth sector in the world economy. The exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes should be one of the most important principles for all States to follow, and it was therefore urgent to negotiate an international legal instrument to prevent the weaponization of outer space or an arms race in space. At the 2007 meeting of the Conference on Disarmament, China and the Russian Federation had informally circulated a draft Treaty on the Prevention of the Deployment of Weapons in Outer Space and the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects, offering a vision of peace and rule of law that had been welcomed by a number of States.

3. To enhance the capacity of States to use outer space for peaceful purposes, it was essential to combine domestic innovation, aimed at national development in pursuit of a policy of independence, with international cooperation and exchanges, aimed at equality, mutual benefit and common development. A number of China's achievements in space exploration and satellite launching and its projects for cooperation with developing countries had yielded encouraging results.

4. Significant progress had also been made in regional space cooperation with the entry into force in 2006 of the Convention Establishing the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), which was headquartered in China and, once operational, should spur economic growth, social progress and higher living standards throughout the region. Also, her Government was actively preparing for the establishment of the Beijing office of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER). In a recent space-related court case, where two firms selling land on the Moon had been convicted of fraud, China had also had occasion to reaffirm the principle that, as the common heritage of mankind, the Moon was not subject to ownership claims.

5. **Ms. Altimova** (Kazahkstan), highlighting the importance of remote sensing, environmental monitoring, the use of nuclear-power sources in outer space and the maintenance of outer space for peaceful purposes, said that dynamic international cooperation over the past several decades in the application of space technologies had increasingly furthered the overall social and economic development of many Member States.

6. Kazahkstan was contributing to international space activities through its Baikonur launching pad, and was participating in various international projects, including some involving applications for environmental protection. Her Government's space programme included plans for producing national spacecraft up to the year 2020. In 2006, the country's first geostationary satellite, the KazSat, had been successfully put into orbit, with a second satellite to be launched in the near future. With that, Kazakhstan would join the group of 25 countries in the world that had two or more satellites in orbit. Its satellite system was supported by a ground-control complex consisting of monitoring and control centres and payload operations, soon to be expanded by facilities for training national cadres. With its partners in the region, it was working on another ambitious project to build the Baiterek rocket complex, and was considering developing a complex to launch smaller spacecraft for civilian applications. It had in addition signed an agreement with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine on outer-space cooperation, concerned mainly with joint use of the Baikonur launching pad for peaceful purposes.

7. There should be greater international cooperation to protect the environment, an area in which modern space science and technology had extensive applications. Many global problems stemmed from deterioration of the environment and from climate change — among them, water shortages, soil degradation and various natural and man-made disasters. In Kazakhstan, the issue was very real

because of the drying up of the Aral Sea, which could be monitored by space technology, or because of the former nuclear-testing ground in Semipalatinsk, whose impact on the population could be reduced only by multilateral cooperation.

8. Her Government had ratified the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, as well as a number of other instruments relating to outer space. COPUOS should be commended for its development of space law; and completion of the Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) would provide new impetus in that field.

9. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) commended the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for making the important linkages between space technology and development, spanning a range of subjects like search and rescue, early warning and remote sensing that were especially relevant to the sustainable development of small island developing States. Her Government was heartened by the consideration being given to establishing space-based services for use in disaster management and early-warning systems.

10. There was growing concern over the steady accumulation of space debris and the dangers it posed to functioning space systems. The development of the draft space-debris-mitigation guidelines by the Working Group on Space Debris was therefore to be applauded.

11. At the regional level, the Fifth Space Conference of the Americas, held in 2006, had addressed many issues of relevance to Latin America and the Caribbean, including international space law, the reduction and mitigation of natural disasters, environmental protection, tele-health, space education and access to technology. One of its major recommendations had been the establishment of national space bodies by the States of the region as a precursor to a regional body for space cooperation. Certainly, all efforts should be made to develop an internationally agreed regime for preventing the weaponization of space and preserving space as a peaceful realm.

12. **Mr. Oraon** (India) said that, during the past 50 years, the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) had helped to strengthen international space cooperation and to maintain the peaceful character of outer space, thereby benefiting both space-faring and space-using countries.

13. Having participated actively in the work of COPUOS, his delegation welcomed that Committee's report and its endorsement of the space-debris-mitigation guidelines. The Legal Subcommittee of COPUOS had a leading role to play in developing and safeguarding the entire body of international space law.

14. His Government's space programme continued to prioritize the use of space technology for social and economic development. In January 2007, India had successfully launched two primary satellites, as well as two auxiliary satellites belonging to an international customer. Two Indian communication satellites (INSAT-4B and INSAT-4CR) had been launched in March and September 2007, respectively; and in April 2007, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C8) had launched the Italian Space Agency's 350-kg AGILE satellite.

15. His Government used space applications to promote national development by providing better outreach to remote areas. Its Village Resource Centre (VRC) network was a single delivery mechanism for a variety of space-based products and services, including tele-education; telemedicine; information on natural resources; and interactive advisories on agriculture, fisheries and land, livestock and water-resources management.

16. At the international level, India cooperated with a number of space-related agencies through bilateral and multilateral agreements. In 2006, it had joined the United Nations and the United States in sponsoring a workshop on "Telemedicine in the Reconstruction of Afghanistan" and had hosted a workshop on basic space sciences in the context of the International Heliophysical Year 2007. The Indian Space Research Organisation also participated in the Sentinel-Asia project, conceived under the aegis of the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). In September 2007, India had hosted the fifty-eighth International Astronautical Congress, which had included special events celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the space age.

17. His Government shared its expertise and services in the application of space technology with developing countries, including through its United-Nations-affiliated Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP). To date, the Centre had offered a number of postgraduate and short-term courses; over 700 scholars from 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and 26 scholars from 16 countries outside the region had benefited from its services.

18. The utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes served the interests of all nations. The long-standing international consensus on that issue could be undermined by the deployment of weapons in outer space or of weapons that targeted space assets. Space-faring nations had a particular responsibility to ensure that space remained the common heritage of mankind. His delegation was in favour of a multilateral effort to build consensus on international instruments banning the weaponization of outer space and on the development of confidence-building and transparency measures concerning outer-space activities.

19. Lastly, he noted that the risk of misuse of the high-resolution images of sensitive areas available on the Internet, including by terrorists, was a source of concern to many nations. Guidelines consistent with national policies should be developed in order to regulate public-domain access to such data.

20. **Mr. Lemos Godinho** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Norway and Ukraine, said that all States had the responsibility to ensure that space activities were conducted with a view to maintaining international peace and security, to prevent an arms race in outer space and to promote international cooperation in the free exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

21. The European Union strongly supported General Assembly resolution 61/111, establishing the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER), and looked forward to full implementation of that initiative.

22. The issue of the commercialization and pollution of outer space should be dealt with within appropriate international and national legal frameworks; the European Union would welcome further work by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs in those areas, which were of interest to both developing and developed countries. In particular, the risk posed by space debris was a source of concern to space-faring and non-space-faring nations. He welcomed the recent COPUOS endorsement of space-debris-mitigation guidelines and suggested that they might be complemented by the 2004 European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation.

23. In 2007, the European Union had adopted a European Space Policy aimed at increasing coordination with its member States and the European Space Agency. The strategic mission of that Policy was to promote the peaceful exploitation of outer space by all States and would focus on, inter alia, security and defence needs, the space industry, space-based science and space applications. Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) was a European initiative aimed at harmonizing Earth-observation information; such programmes could help achieve the goals of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development by improving peoples' lives, conserving national resources and reducing the effects of adverse weather conditions and climate change. With regard to the use of space technology for navigation, geopositioning and time synchronization, the European Union was developing a global satellite navigation system, Galileo, which could be used in such areas as transport, telecommunications, agriculture and fisheries.

24. The European Union States had voted unanimously in favour of General Assembly resolutions 61/75 (on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities) and 61/58 (on prevention of an arms race in outer space), and had recently submitted concrete proposals pursuant to paragraph 1 of the former resolution. One such proposal concerned the development of a comprehensive code of conduct on space objects and space activities in order to strengthen existing agreements and codify new best practices. Key activities to be covered by such a code might include avoidance of collisions; development of safer traffic management practices; provision of assurances through improved information exchange, transparency and

notification measures; and adoption of more stringent space-debris-mitigation measures.

25. Complementarity between the work of the Conference on Disarmament and COPUOS and communication between those bodies would be essential in preventing duplication of effort and ensuring a coordinated approach to the issues of prevention of an arms race in outer space and preservation of the space environment.

26. **Ms. Bhanthumnavin** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that space technology and its benefits should be used only for peaceful purposes. The ASEAN States had noted with satisfaction the General Assembly's agreement to promote regional and interregional cooperation in the use of space science and technology and the progress made in establishing regional cooperation organizations in Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region during the past year; they looked forward to being active members of that global network, which would promote continued progress in many scientific fields. ASEAN was also pleased by the establishment of the SPIDER project and encouraged COPUOS to continue to develop a detailed work plan for the project.

27. Having suffered from the December 2004 tsunamis, the ASEAN States fully supported cooperation on disaster-management systems in their region, of which satellite technology was an essential component, including the Multi-donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia, the Sentinel-Asia project and the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO). ASEAN wished to express its appreciation to the Governments of India, Japan and China, with which it had cooperated on many projects in the areas of disaster management and earth observation through the ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA), which used satellites to gather geo-informatics data and promoted space-science education in the region. Lastly, she noted that the ASEAN States were committed to the peaceful uses of space technology.

28. Speaking as the representative of Thailand, she said that her Government attached the utmost importance to using satellite communication to promote distance learning. The Klai Kangwon School, established in 1995, specialized in satellite transmission of lessons conducted by qualified teachers so that children in remote areas could receive the same education in science and the arts as those living in more privileged areas. That distance-learning network covered 3,000 schools in Thailand and was available worldwide to anyone with access to a computer.

29. Her Government pledged to cooperate with its neighbours in promoting space education and capacity-building. The Thailand Earth Observation System (THEOS), an observation satellite capable of exploring and monitoring natural resources, was scheduled to be launched by the end of 2007.

30. **Mr. Nanta Linggi** (Malaysia) said that it was a source of pride for Malaysia that it had recently sent one of its citizens into space to spend 8 days on the International Space Station, proving that the exploration of outer space was not limited to certain countries and that the developing countries could play a role in that endeavour. His Government would continue to strengthen its capability in space technology and collaborate with regional initiatives for space cooperation to promote sustainable development. It would share its expertise and cooperate with partners in such areas as space-related technology, scientific missions, education, training and industry.

31. The international community had a joint responsibility to use outer space as a focus for international cooperation to ensure the continued well-being of mankind. Space technology could benefit the developing countries in such areas as sustainable development, telecommunications, disaster management, natural-resources management and protection of the environment. In that context, his Government participated in such collaborative efforts as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF), the ASEAN Subcommittee on Space Technology and Applications (SCOSA) and the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER). He said that the United Nations should act as the focal point for the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

32. The issue of space debris remained a source of concern. Countries involved in space activities should give serious attention to the problems that could be caused by collisions in space between satellites and

other launched space objects and debris. He noted that nuclear-powered space objects posed a particular threat if they re-entered the atmosphere following a collision and stressed that the introduction of weapons, particularly nuclear weapons, into space would seriously undermine international efforts to ensure the peaceful use of outer space. An international legal instrument should therefore be drawn up to prohibit the deployment of weapons in outer space.

33. He reiterated the need for international cooperation to strengthen efforts to use space technology to predict, monitor and mitigate natural disasters with a view to issuing early warning of natural disasters. Accordingly, his Government looked forward to the launch in the near future of its second Earth observation satellite, RazakSAT, which would be useful for monitoring environmental conditions, including forest fires, haze and natural disasters, particularly in the equatorial region.

34. His delegation would continue to cooperate with COPUOS and looked forward to chairing the forty-fourth session of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. It would likewise continue to work for the implementation of the outcomes of UNISPACE III and seek new ways of using space technology for the well-being of the peoples of the Earth.

35. **Ms. Ljubalina** (Russian Federation) said that her country favoured the expansion of international cooperation in the exploration of outer space, which should be conducted exclusively for peaceful purposes. Such activities should be subject to multilateral regulation by the United Nations, and specifically the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Her delegation supported enhancement of the capabilities of the Committee as the world body primarily responsible for elaboration of the political and legal foundations for space activities. To that end, the Committee and its two subcommittees should be made more effective.

36. The Russian Federation favoured international cooperation with a view to launching the SPIDER programme, and supported the space-debris-mitigation guidelines. It considered that the deployment of weapons in outer space could jeopardize the whole system of international security. Consequently, it was high time to proceed with the drafting of a treaty to prohibit such activities, in the interests of preserving outer space for peaceful purposes.

37. Her delegation believed that space law should be developed in a dynamic fashion to respond to the contemporary level of cooperation in outer space. It was important to continue the progressive development of space law, including the elaboration of an international space-law convention covering all aspects of human activity in space.

38. **Mr. Nakano** (Japan) said that Japan was actively involved in space-related activities. It had successfully launched eight H-IIA and M-V rockets and would continue to improve its launch vehicle. The X-ray astronomy satellite Suzaku and the infrared astronomy and solar observation satellites Akari and Hinode continued to make a significant contribution to astronomy. The antennae of Engineering Test Satellite (ETS) VIII, also known as Kiku-8, had been extended, making it possible to engage in mobile communication using hand-held terminals and potentially providing a high data-rate communication service for disaster situations and isolated mountain and ocean regions. The orbiting satellite Kaguya was one of the largest Moon-exploration missions since the Apollo programme and the Wideband Internetworking Engineering Test and Demonstration Satellite (WINDS), to be launched in early 2008, would provide high-speed communications and Internet access.

39. His Government actively supported the International Space Station Programme. The Japanese experiment module Kibo would be carried into space by the United States space shuttle in early 2008. Three Japanese astronauts would participate in space-shuttle flights, including one long-duration mission. His Government participated in the Sentinel-Asia project to use satellite data to support disaster-management efforts, initiated by the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF). Since the beginning of the project, Japan had used its Advanced Land Observing Satellite (ALOS) to carry out emergency observations of disasters in the Asia-Pacific region and then released data on the Sentinel-Asia website and cooperated with the authorities of the countries concerned.

40. The APRSAF secretariat was located in Japan. The most recent session of the Forum had been held in Indonesia in December 2006 and had adopted seven recommendations, including with regard to the strengthening of the Sentinel-Asia project. Its next session would be held in November 2007 in Bangalore, India, on the theme of "Space for Human Empowerment".

41. His Government continued to work toward the implementation of the UNISPACE III recommendations and "the Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development". It was committed to the United Nations space-debris-mitigation guidelines adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) was also developing its own space-debris-mitigation standards. In that context, he expressed concern at the satellite-destruction experiment that had taken place in January 2007 and urged all parties to continue to honour the principle that outer space should be used solely for peaceful purposes.

42. His delegation was participating in activities for the International Heliophysical Year (2007). In June it had hosted in Tokyo the third United Nations/ European Space Agency (ESA)/National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) workshop on the International Year and Basic Space Science. In order to promote the development of space science over the past 20 years, his Government had contributed equipment and facilities to developing countries as part of its programme of cultural official development assistance. It would continue to support self-sustaining space-education programmes in cooperation with developing countries.

43. In accordance with its belief that it could contribute to global prosperity by participating in cooperative space activities, his delegation reiterated its commitment to the Organization's efforts to promote the peaceful utilization of outer space. It would work to promote international cooperation with a view to ensuring all mankind shared in the benefits derived from space activities.

44. **Mr. Majok** (Sudan) said that space technology had great benefits for developing countries and he looked forward to further development of the benefits of space technology in such areas as sustainable development, disaster management, communications and education. In that context he welcomed the launch of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER) and looked forward to the related meeting to be held in Khartoum in December 2007. He also welcomed the intention of the South African Government to host the Second African Leadership Conference on Space Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Pretoria in late 2007, in which his delegation would participate.

45. He expressed support for the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and cooperation between the developed and developing countries in all areas of space technology. His delegation, as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, participated actively in its work and fully supported such initiatives as the SPIDER programme in order to help the developing countries bridge the gap between them and the developed countries in the area of space technology. In that context he said that the SPIDER programme should function in a fully transparent manner so as to contribute to capacity-building in national and regional disaster-management structures, particularly in the developing countries.

46. He expressed support for the recommendations in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its efforts to increase transparency in matters relating to outer space, and urged all States to refrain from deploying weapons in outer space, which could lead to an arms race and worsen relations between States. Lastly, he expressed support for efforts to find a permanent solution to the problem of space debris through voluntary measures.

47. **Ms. Riess** (Germany) welcomed the establishment of the United Nations SPIDER programme, which would become a key initiative for applying space technologies to the sustainable development of developing countries and to reducing the impact of disasters. That programme did not duplicate other initiatives and was in keeping with the spirit of other international efforts such as the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters" and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

48. Her Government would fund the SPIDER office in Bonn in the amount of $215,000 per year in addition to providing infrastructure and office space for a period of four years, and would also second two aerospace experts to the office. The office would have the important task of providing comprehensive information on natural disasters to users 24 hours a day. Her delegation welcomed the support offered to SPIDER by an increasing number of countries, including financial and human resources, and regional support offices in particular. Further resources were nevertheless required and she appealed to Member States to support the efforts of the Office for Outer

Space Affairs in the Fifth Committee to obtain additional resources.

49. **Mr. Davide** (Philippines) observed that, after 50 years, COPUOS continued to take the lead not only in promoting the development of space technologies and applications beneficial to mankind and the environment, but also in creating the conditions that would allow non-space-faring developing countries like the Philippines to share in the benefits. His Government was endeavouring to revitalize its space-technology-applications programme to support the country's sustainable development, promote the Millennium Development Goals and improve its citizens' quality of life.

50. COPUOS would itself continue to address priorities such as space applications in agriculture, rural development, drought and desertification, thus furthering action also called for at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications had been particularly helpful to his country by offering capacity-building and training opportunities in such fields as remote-sensing and global navigation-satellite systems. Space technology and applications also played an important role in mitigating and preventing disasters, cases in point being the Sentinel-Asia system and the new SPIDER programme; as a disaster-prone country, the Philippines stood to benefit from them. It hoped that SPIDER would soon become operational, for international and regional assistance to the developing countries was crucial.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 12th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 29 October 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

Contents

Agenda item 31: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*)

Agenda item 30: Effects of atomic radiation

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07-56736 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 31: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/62/20)

1. **Ms. Link** (Israel) said that her Government attached great importance to cooperation with other States and international agencies in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space. It had attended meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) as an observer and had participated in the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE) and its subsidiary programmes and activities. Following its launch of the OFEQ-1 satellite in 1988, Israel had become one of a group of eight nations which were capable of producing, launching and operating their own satellites.

2. Israel continued to use its technological advantages in certain niches, notably small, sophisticated satellites, space propulsion, the global positioning system (GPS) for ground application and satellite-based technologies such as remote sensing. The Israel Space Agency (ISA) had undertaken a number of joint projects that would benefit the international community. It was cooperating with France on the Vegetation and Environment Monitoring New Micro-Satellite (VENUS) project, which included the development, manufacture and operation of an observation microsatellite aimed at optimizing agriculture and aquaculture applications. It was also cooperating with India on the Tel-Aviv University Ultraviolet Imaging Experiment (TAUVEX) project, whose aim would be to solve astrophysical questions relating to star formation, history of galaxies and black holes. ISA had signed cooperation agreements with agencies in France, Canada, Germany, the United States, the Russian Federation, India, Ukraine and the Netherlands, and hoped to sign similar agreements with Chile, Brazil and the Republic of Korea. Israel was negotiating a framework agreement to join the European Space Agency.

3. Israeli academic and research institutes and private companies had played an active role in enhancing international cooperation by exploring space-based technology that could alleviate some pressing environmental needs. Israel was willing to expand its space cooperation and share its knowledge and expertise with other States, and commended the Committee on its efforts to use space technologies for improving quality of life on Earth.

4. **Mr. Kyslytsya** (Ukraine) said that Ukraine's Third National Space Programme for 2003-2007 and its proposed programme for 2008-2012 focused on international cooperation to address a wide range of scientific, technical and economic issues. Funding for the programme would be quadrupled in comparison with previous years. It addressed sustainable development through use of Earth observations and space data, and aimed to strengthen the country's security, expand education and research programmes, and promote country-wide application of technologies. It would transform the space sector into a priority branch of the economy and ensure the development and use of space technology.

5. Ukraine participated in several international projects and programmes aimed at promoting the peaceful uses of outer space and supported the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER). Its international cooperation aimed to ensure favourable conditions under international law for Ukraine's participation in international space projects and to support Ukrainian businesses in the global space sector. In 2007, Ukrainian launch vehicles had made four successful orbital launches with satellites for the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany and Egypt.

6. The first all-Ukrainian conference on "Aerospace Observations for Sustainable Development and Security GEO-UA" would be held in Kyiv in June 2008. It would discuss the status of and prospects for use of aerospace information in addressing natural resources management, sustainable development and security. His Government fully acknowledged the dangers of uncontrolled proliferation of rocket technology and complied with relevant international treaties and non-proliferation regimes. It pledged to continue to support global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The National Space Agency of Ukraine continued to work towards eliminating space debris and took into account the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee in modernizing and designing launch vehicles and spacecraft.

Agenda item 30: Effects of atomic radiation (A/62/46)

7. **The Chairman** invited the Secretary of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to make a presentation on the Committee's work.

8. **Mr. Crick** (Secretary of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation) recalled that the Committee's, mandate was renewed annually to assess the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation worldwide and to disseminate its findings. It had 21 member States, although other States and organizations provided data. Its funding came from the United Nations regular budget. The Committee's annual session was attended not only by its member States but also by 100 cost-free experts of the highest calibre. Every four or five years, it published its findings, which were greatly appreciated by the scientific community. The latest substantive reports had been issued in 2000 and 2001 and had focused on the sources, effects and hereditary effects of ionizing radiation. Generally speaking, the Committee was better at communicating with scientists than with the General Assembly or the public.

9. The Committee had carried out reviews of the effects of various doses of radiation, which, at very high levels, such as those encountered by the firemen who had dealt with the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear-power plant in 1986, could lead to burns, radiation sickness and death and, at lower levels, to an increasing risk of cancer. The Committee's findings were passed on to the International Commission on Radiological Protection or direct to various United Nations agencies, which, in turn, used them as the basis for their own conventions or regulations in the formulation of safety standards and protection programmes. The scientific report contained in section II of the report on its fifty-fourth session (A/61/46) had presented new comprehensive studies on the health effects of ionizing-radiation exposure, had reviewed new cellular, genetic and microbiological techniques and had benefited from longer periods of epidemiological follow-up. It had concluded that, while there were differences at the detailed level, the overall risk factors of cancer remained unchanged.

10. With regard to safety standards, in 1996 the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and five other organizations had co-sponsored and issued the most recent edition of the International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. IAEA General Conference resolution GC (51)/RES/11, of 21 September 2007, had noted that the secretariat had commenced revision of the standards with the participation of sponsors. It had taken note of the Scientific Committee's 2006 report and had urged the secretariat to consider carefully and justify any potential changes to the standards, ensuring consistency with the 2006 report. At its session in May 2007, the Committee had considered five annexes on public and worker exposures, medical exposures, accident exposures, effects on non-human biota and Chernobyl radiation and effects. It had concluded that those annexes should be finalized and published in 2008.

11. Between 1980 and 2007, the Scientific Committee's annual budget had generally declined in real terms, even as the cost-free assistance available to it was falling. A P-5 post had been abolished in the 1992-1993 biennium, precisely when the pace of communication and scientific development had been stepped up and the number of references to the Committee's work in the scientific community had soared. The budgetary constraints that had caused his predecessor to resign and had overburdened the secretariat had obviously had an impact on the quality of the Scientific Committee's work and its outreach to the public. Its studies were no longer as reliable, thus undermining credibility, and there had been delays in their publication — the twentieth-anniversary Chernobyl report being a case in point — which in turn had hampered the work of other specialized agencies; it had become impossible to engage first-class experts and difficult to address cross-disciplinary aspects. The Committee noted with appreciation that the budget proposal for 2009 had been increased. Of course some help would be available in the form of funds transferred by UNEP and the general trust fund it had established for voluntary contributions to the Scientific Committee.

12. The staffing needs, however, remained. It had been suggested that the Professional post abolished in the 1990s should be reinstated, because, given the pace of scientific development, a single expert could not be knowledgeable enough in both physics and biology or handle the communications and coordination required.

13. The expansion of the Scientific Committee's membership, would pose financial and administrative

problems, and especially the fact that members had to be active scientists knowledgeable in a broad range of issues in the field of radiation levels and effects, able to compile, prepare and evaluate scientific reports and to summarize and synthesize material for the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public.

14. At its forthcoming session, the Scientific Committee would address its longer-term strategy and programme of work, which would encompass improving its methods of work and communication with the public, and dealing with scientific issues of increasing scope. Complex documents would have to be adopted with time-sensitive data on public, worker and medical exposures and on accidents like Chernobyl and their effects on both humans and non-human biota.

15. The Scientific Committee was highly respected by Governments, international organizations and the scientific community because of its independence and scientific objectivity. Its findings critically underpinned the programmes of Governments and other international organizations on protection against radiation; in that context, it was important to keep the science and the policy separate while adjusting to future challenges. It was more efficient to develop a global consensus through the sharing of knowledge and information than through national or regional initiatives.

16. **Mr. Maleki** (Islamic Republic of Iran) asked how Member States could justify allocating only one expert to the secretariat of such an important body as the Scientific Committee. Perhaps it should open its membership to more of the developing countries, which understood the value of its work and which would surely try to remedy the situation.

17. **Ms. Parviainen** (Finland) observed that the draft resolution to be adopted under the item proposed introducing an observership system for a year, that would allow observers to participate in the coming session and facilitate eventual full membership for them in the Scientific Committee.

18. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus) asked whether his Government would be able to receive the Chernobyl report prior to its issuance at the next session.

19. **Mr. Onuoha** (Nigeria) asked how useful the Chernobyl report would still be, if it had not been possible to complete it even 20 years after the event.

20. **Mr. Crick** (Secretary of the, United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation) said he did not know why there was only one expert in the Scientific Committee secretariat, except that it was a legacy issue. He also did not know why a second Professional post had been abolished in the mid-1990s.

21. Regarding the membership of developing countries, it should be pointed out that from its inception the Committee had been a scientific, non-political committee. It was therefore inevitable that some members should have participated in it from the pioneering days of the development of ionizing radiation. Now, of course, developing countries were bringing more and more expertise to the table. The challenge for the Committee was to organize its work differently from the way it had done in the 1950s and 1960s, when the Scientific Committee had been the only forum for sharing information on the subject of ionizing radiation. The Internet was now the way, through peer-review journals readily available on it. The Scientific Committee had to become a body that synthesized information, as well as collecting data from all sources more efficiently and making that data available to all. That operational issue was being discussed as one part of future strategy.

22. He assured the delegation of Belarus, which had been sending observers for the past two or three years to the discussions on the Chernobyl document, that the report would be made available in advance to his Government so that the country's scientists could check that no scientific data had been overlooked. Reports had actually already been issued on Chernobyl in 1988 and 2000. The forthcoming report provided a follow-up on the latest trends in health patterns, and was therefore not time-critical; but it was unfortunate that it had not been available on the twentieth anniversary. Follow-up reports would continue to be issued in the future as health patterns were monitored.

23. The secretariat saw no problem in dealing with six observers in the immediate future, but it was concerned about the long-term resources for handling more people in a decision-making capacity than currently were members.

24. **Ms. Gatehouse** (Australia), noting that Australia had chaired the Scientific Committee at its fifty-fifth session, said that Governments and organizations throughout the world now relied on the Committee's

scientific estimates for evaluating radiation risk, establishing radiation protection and safety standards and regulating radiation sources. Within the United Nations system, those estimates were used by IAEA and assisted the General Assembly in making health recommendations.

25. Australia welcomed the Committee's intention to develop a long-term strategic plan at its 2008 session. The relevance of its work and the need to disseminate its findings quickly were important in the context of the current energy debate; its assessments of potential harm from chronic low-level exposures among large populations affected the evaluation of future energy options.

26. A lack of funds was preventing the Scientific Committee from publishing significant scientific contributions by Member States. Voluntary contributions to the UNEP general trust fund were not an alternative to providing adequate resources for the Committee secretariat so that it could expedite its work and disseminate its findings before they became outdated. In 2007, six Member States had expressed their desire to join the Scientific Committee but, while the interest was welcome, the extra burden on an already overstretched secretariat could not be overstated, and financial, operational and scientific issues would need to be resolved before it could be decided how new members could effectively contribute.

27. Introducing draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.5 on the effects of atomic radiation, she announced that the sponsors had been joined by the Czech Republic, Egypt, the Netherlands and Pakistan. She observed that the draft resolution endorsed the Scientific Committee's mandate, and encouraged its vital work in providing an authoritative scientific review of the field, and she drew particular attention to paragraphs 3, 12 and 13.

28. Responding to an inquiry from the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to changes from the previous year's resolution, she said that, apart from text in paragraphs 14 and 15 on the importance of strengthening the secretariat and the issue of new membership in the Scientific Committee, all other updates had been technical in nature.

29. **Mr. Nakano** (Japan) said that Japan had benefited from the work of the Scientific Committee, and looked forward to the publication of its new report. To mark that occasion, the Government was planning to hold a symposium on the Scientific Committee's recent achievements and future directions in radiation research, with the Chairman of the Scientific Committee as a keynote speaker. He called for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to review and strengthen the current arrangements for the Scientific Committee, and to consider a temporary voluntary-funding mechanism to complement existing ones, so as to ensure its continued ability to discharge its responsibilities.

30. While the participation of the six Member States desiring membership in the Scientific Committee would doubtless enhance its work, his delegation was of the view that the qualification for membership required further clarification in order to maintain the Committee's proper functioning. It also shared the concerns expressed in the Committee's report with regard to the financial and administrative impact of such an increase in its membership.

31. **Mr. Perazza** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of MERCOSUR and associated States, called for the early issuance of the 2006 report of the Scientific Committee, while noting with satisfaction that according to that report, the risks of exposure to ionizing radiation remained unchanged. Expressing concern regarding the delay in release of reports reviewed in the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Scientific Committee, he also encouraged their early completion.

32. Reaffirming the need for UNEP to strengthen support for the Scientific Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/109, he expressed satisfaction with the financial contribution of UNEP for the publication of the 2006 report and the creation of a trust fund to manage extrabudgetary contributions to the Scientific Committee. However, those measures did not satisfactorily address the need for stable, permanent and regular support for the Committee; in that regard, he expressed support for the Committee's concern expressed in paragraph 5 of its latest report (A/62/46). He called on the General Assembly to reiterate its decision to maintain the current functions and independent role of the Scientific Committee, as stated in resolution 61/109.

33. He welcomed the development of a long-term strategic plan for the Scientific Committee as described in its latest report, but emphasized the need for the

Committee to complete urgent current tasks such as providing information requested by the Argentine Government on low doses of radiation.

34. Enlargement of the Scientific Committee did not seem appropriate at a time when it was experiencing difficulties in fulfilling its mandate at its current level of membership. First, further enhancement of its funding mechanism and administrative structure were required. He called for an early and durable solution to those issues, noting that in the meantime, experts from States not represented on the Committee could nevertheless participate in its deliberations as guests either of other delegations or of the Committee itself under special circumstances.

35. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba), underscoring the consistent excellence of the information the Scientific Committee provided to Member States, said that its budget and staffing crisis was affecting the efficiency and timeliness of its work. Alternative funding mechanisms must be found to allow it to fulfil its mandate.

36. Cuba supported the idea of developing a longer-term strategic plan that would establish objectives, expected achievements and associated performance indicators and would serve as a planning tool for programme budgets.

37. The Scientific Committee's work had shown that, even 60 years later, nuclear contamination could continue to harm human health. There could be no justification for maintaining nearly 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world, more than 12,000 of them ready for immediate deployment. Cuba was firmly committed to the prohibition and elimination of all nuclear weapons and it absolutely opposed the use of nuclear energy for military purposes.

38. For the past 16 years, her Government had — despite the impact that the harsh embargo was having on the country's health sector and cooperation assistance — been helping Ukraine through a programme to rehabilitate the victims of Chernobyl, most of them children, almost 19,000 of whom, together with over 3,000 adults, had been brought to Cuba for medical treatment. The humanitarian programme had also yielded primary scientific data on internal injuries to infants from the nuclear contamination; and that information had been disseminated appropriately for further study and had been used or cited by United Nations scientific bodies.

39. Her delegation was pleased that the Scientific Committee was thinking of expanding its membership — an issue that must quickly be given careful consideration — and especially that outside scientists had been able to attend its sessions as advisers to member States. United Nations Member States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system should strengthen their ties to the Scientific Committee, the source of such important and objective information in its field.

40. **Mr. Graça** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the report of the Scientific Committee (A/62/46) confirmed its status as the principal international body in its field. The European Union fully supported the Scientific Committee's work and would continue to provide it with all relevant information. It encouraged the Committee to pursue its study of the long-term health and environmental effects of ionizing radiation, as in the case of the Chernobyl accident, and of chronic low-level exposures among large populations; and urged it to continue cooperating and exchanging information with other international organizations.

41. He noted that, since the 1990s, the Scientific Committee's funding, had not seen an increase in predictable resources commensurate with the growing interest in its scientific work and greater international concern about radiation protection. The European Union looked forward to considering the issue of the possible enlargement of the membership at the Assembly's sixty-third session.

42. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus) commended the work of the Scientific Committee, including its cooperation with Belarusian scientists studying the effects of the Chernobyl accident, its ever-expanding cooperation with relevant international organizations and its valuable publications, which had been used in Belarus to elaborate national standards for protecting both the population and the environment from the effects of atomic radiation.

43. The country had borne the brunt of the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant 20 years previously. Although the world's

media and international community had lost interest in recent years, many tens of thousands of people in Belarus continued to suffer. A million people's homes were still contaminated and hundreds of thousands of people had been forced to relocate. Cancer rates in affected areas were 16 times the world average. Belarus reiterated its willingness to become a member of the Scientific Committee; it had collected unique data and acquired considerable practical experience that it wished to contribute.

44. **Mr. Naik** (India) said that the work of the Scientific Committee had immense implications for the health and well-being of thousands of people and for the environment. His delegation also welcomed the Scientific Committee's latest publications.

45. No appropriate systems for the collection of relevant scientific data existed in many countries, nor was patients' exposure to medical radiation always adequately monitored, although its use was on the rise. The health effects of natural radiation exposure also required continuous monitoring, and laboratories like the one in Kerala, India, which studied the effects of low-dose radiation, should be the focus of detailed scientific enquiry. There was as yet no evidence for any significant deleterious effect of such radiation.

46. The dogmatic adherence to the "linear no-threshold" hypothesis as the cornerstone of international regulation of radiation exposure had put an unnecessary economic burden on the increasing number of countries that sought to develop nuclear power as a cleaner and cheaper option. It was high time to review that approach and to take into account other, non-radiation factors such as smoking and diet in determining the triggers of health effects. Cardiovascular and other non-cancer diseases following radiation exposure should also be analysed when determining exposure limits. Lastly, India supported an increased budget for the Scientific Committee, inter alia to enable it to engage highly qualified scientists.

47. **Mr. Htin Lynn** (Myanmar) said that the world faced an ominous threat of nuclear accidents. The Scientific Committee must be allocated the resources to enable it to continue filling its mandate, and States should supply scientists to further enhance its effectiveness.

48. The adverse effects of the Chernobyl accident continued to be felt. More needed to be done to alleviate the environmental, health and economic consequences, and information on healthy lifestyles should be disseminated in innovative ways to affected populations. The courage and perseverance of those populations and their Governments were admirable; the United Nations also played a vital role in alleviating the consequences of the accident and promoting sustainable development. The tragedy had indeed highlighted the importance of focusing on nuclear safety.

49. The Government of Myanmar had enacted a law in 1998 for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. National regulations had also been drafted with a view to ensuring radiation safety.

50. Lastly, he commended the Scientific Committee on its work and reiterated the support of his delegation.

51. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that it was incumbent on the Member States to ensure the timely and efficient provision of adequate resources to the Scientific Committee to enable it to carry out its mandate. Its work should not be hampered by minor administrative or financial constraints.

52. His delegation welcomed the decision of the General Assembly in resolution 61/109 to review the question of membership in the Scientific Committee. Pakistan, along with five other Member States, had expressed strong interest in becoming a member of the Committee; his delegation was satisfied that the draft resolution under consideration constituted a further step towards that goal, and looked forward to participating as an observer in the next session of the Scientific Committee. While Pakistan would have preferred an increase in membership in 2007, it was now hopeful that the financial and administrative issues would be addressed in time for it to assume full membership following the intervening year, and called for the consensus adoption of the draft resolution.

53. **Mr. Al-Janabi** (Iraq), noting the numerous harmful effects of atomic radiation, said that in 2005 his Government had established the Iraqi Radioactive Source Regulatory Authority, which had contacted IAEA with a view to expanding technical cooperation in regulating and monitoring the transit of radioactive sources at border points. Moreover, his country had become a party to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.

54. His delegation supported the efforts made by the United Nations to follow up on the levels, doses, effects and risks and called upon all States concerned to cooperate closely with the United Nations and its specialized agencies to protect the planet from those risks and to dispose safely of all radioactive pathogens.

55. **Mr. Taleb** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had taken note with concern of the Scientific Committee's report (A/62/46). He commended the work of the Committee and affirmed the need for it to continue its current work and maintain its independence. His delegation also supported the Committee's request for continued support from UNEP, which would enable it to perform its functions effectively and inform the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public of its findings, as well as its request to all Member States, United Nations specialized agencies and other international and national scientific bodies to continue to provide reliable information for its reviews.

56. His country based its nuclear policy upon the peaceful use of nuclear technology for development, without selectivity or double standards, and was concerned by the difficulties faced by developing nations seeking to obtain nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, subject to verification and non-proliferation measures. His country had always called for the disposal of nuclear-weapons arsenals, in order to protect humanity from the dangers they posed and to reduce radiation risks, and had been one of the first to call for making the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons. It had worked seriously towards that end: it had acceded to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapon in 1969, ratified the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and contributed to numerous related initiatives, including the submission in the name of the Group of Arab States to the Security Council in 2003 of the draft resolution on making the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction, principally nuclear weapons, in the framework of international monitoring supervised by the United Nations.

57. Israel alone possessed nuclear weapons without international monitoring. Its refusal to accede to the Nuclear-Proliferation Treaty and to implement IAEA guarantees threatened regional and global peace and security and could lead to a catastrophe. Moreover, the Chernobyl incident could happen at any reactor: people and Governments had the right to investigate the type and safety of activities conducted at nuclear reactors. The international community needed to exert maximum pressure on Israel to place all its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolution.

58. His country had been calling attention to the serious risks posed by the burial of radioactive waste in developing countries or its disposal at sea, and the negative effect of such actions on the environment. The international silence over Israel's burial of nuclear waste in the occupied Syrian Golan undermined confidence in the talk of nuclear non-proliferation and of the necessity of respecting international agreements on nuclear disarmament. Increased international cooperation was needed on this subject in order to protect humanity.

Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.5: Effects of atomic radiation

59. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to waive the 24-hour rule and take action on the draft resolution immediately.

60. *It was so decided.*

61. **Mr. Zhang** (Secretary of the Committee) said that under the terms of paragraphs 7, 12, 13, 14 and 16 of draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.5, the General Assembly would (i) emphasize the need for the Scientific Committee to hold regular annual sessions so that its report could reflect the latest developments and findings and thereby provide updated information for dissemination among all States, and endorse on an exceptional basis the intention of the Scientific Committee to convene its fifty-sixth session for seven days in order to finalize its next substantive report; (ii) request UNEP to continue providing support for the work of the Scientific Committee and for dissemination of its findings; (iii) appeal to the Secretary-General to take appropriate administrative measures so that the secretariat could adequately service the Scientific Committee in a predictable and sustainable manner, and facilitate the use of the invaluable expertise offered to the Committee by its members in order that it could discharge its mandate; (iv) urge UNEP to review and strengthen the present funding of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 61/109, and to continue to seek temporary funding mechanisms to complement existing ones, and

took note of the establishment by the Executive Director of UNEP of a general trust fund for voluntary contributions to support the Committee's work, and encouraged Member States to consider making voluntary contributions; (v) request the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive and consolidated report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, to be prepared in consultation with the Scientific Committee as appropriate, addressing the financial and administrative implications of increased membership, staffing of the professional secretariat and methods to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable funding.

62. Were the draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly, it was estimated that additional requirements in the amount of $63,100 would arise in servicing the fifty-sixth session of the Scientific Committee for seven days, instead of the five-day period over which its sessions were usually held, as called for in paragraph 7, namely: (i) under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($60,000); (ii) under section 28F, Administration, Vienna ($100); (iii) under section 33, Safety and security ($3,000).

63. The Secretary-General had reviewed the implications of the draft resolution and proposed to meet the additional requirements within the provisions of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, provided the Scientific Committee was flexible on the dates for holding the session.

64. Provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for implementing the terms of the resolution. Therefore were the Fourth Committee to adopt draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.5, there would be no requirement for additional appropriation, as the necessary expenses would be accommodated within existing resources. In formulating his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, the Secretary-General had reviewed the resources necessary to service the Scientific Committee and it was considered that the resource requirements contained in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 were adequate to respond to the terms of paragraphs 12, 13 and 16 of the draft resolution, notwithstanding the additional resources referred to above.

65. With regard to paragraph 14, he drew attention to General Assembly resolution 45/248 B, which reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

66. As at 25 October 2007, the level of voluntary contributions pledged and paid to the trust fund to support the work of the Scientific Committee amounted to $90,000 and a pledge of $5,000 had been made for 2008.

67. He further cited the following editorial changes in the text of the draft resolution: the comma after "Brunei" in the list of sponsors was to be deleted; the words "the fact" were to be deleted from the first line of paragraph 15; the word "have" was to be inserted after "Ukraine" in the second line of paragraph 15; and the word "provide" was to replace the word "submit" in paragraph 16.

68. **The Chairman** said that, in addition to the sponsors listed in the draft resolution, the following countries had also become sponsors: Brazil, Greece, Monaco, Slovakia, the Sudan, and Turkey.

69. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus), speaking in explanation of his delegation's position before action was taken on the draft resolution, said that his delegation had joined the consensus in order not to cause confrontation, despite its reservations on the text. Only four States had seriously suffered the lethal effects of atomic radiation. Of those, Japan and Russia had been members of the Scientific Committee for more than 50 years, while Belarus and Ukraine continued to be denied the opportunity of contributing fully to its work. Belarus' scientists had unique practical experience of the effects of atomic radiation. An expanded membership would breathe new life into the Committee, which would benefit individual countries and the international community as a whole. Belarus' well-founded request for membership was continually postponed on spurious grounds.

70. In a spirit of compromise, however, his delegation had agreed that consideration of that request should be postponed for a further year. However, it understood paragraph 15 to mean that the General Assembly approved the declaration by six States of their desire to become members of the Scientific Committee; and paragraph 16 to instruct the Secretary-General to prepare comprehensive information in a

timely fashion in order to enable the General Assembly to take a decision on the issue at its sixty-third session.

71. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.5 without a vote.

72. *Draft resolution A/C.4/62/L.5 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/62/SR.13

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Summary record of the 13th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 31 October 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

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Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

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07-57295 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

1. **The Chairman** invited the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Officer-in-Charge of the Department for Field Support to report on developments in the area of peacekeeping. The Under-Secretary-General and the Officer-in-Charge would be available at the close of the meeting for an informal interactive exchange with the members of the Committee.

2. **Mr. Guéhenno** (Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations) said that peacekeeping currently faced three broad challenges: delivering full support to the 18 current operations and ensuring that the two new operations in Darfur and Chad/Central African Republic (CAR) were planned, equipped and deployed on time; implementing the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Department of Field Support (DFS) as approved by the General Assembly; and implementing broader reforms and strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping, as set out in his Department's vision of the "Peace Operations 2010" reform programme.

3. United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to increase in scope, complexity and size. His Department was currently in the midst of establishing two new, highly unique and complex operations, in Darfur and Chad/CAR, which entailed deployment almost to the centre of Africa, over extended supply lines and in inhospitable terrain. Moreover, without a viable ceasefire and political process, there was a real risk that hostilities could continue, endangering the lives of peacekeepers and the civilian populations they were tasked to protect.

4. In Darfur, his Department was now fully engaged in establishing the initial operating capabilities of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), so as to establish the mission by 1 January 2008. The new multidimensional presence in Chad/CAR, namely the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), was also to be deployed by the end of 2007, in close concert with the European Union. Both operations called for intensive collaboration with partner organizations, and required considerable time, attention and fine tuning in order to ensure that those partnerships were effective and complementary.

5. Alongside those new missions, United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to carry out a huge variety of mandated tasks, in volatile and uncertain environments, providing advice and support to political transitions, humanitarian response, the beginnings of economic recovery, strengthening rule-of-law institutions, disarmament and demobilization, security-sector reform, human rights, and linking with a range of other actors providing various forms of assistance. The troops and police provided critical security-related support which underpinned a host of interdependent strategies and complex programmes.

6. In the Sudan, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was providing political and security support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. In Afghanistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was helping to coordinate international donors and support local political dialogue. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United Nations Mission (MONUC) was assisting the newly installed Government to extend State authority, including through robust peacekeeping in the eastern DRC. In Kosovo, his Department was closely collaborating with all stakeholders to prepare for a successful transition process following the eventual determination of Kosovo's future status. In Lebanon, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was working to provide stability, in the absence of clear political progress. In Timor-Leste, the United Nations Integrated Mission (UNMIT) had the task of helping to consolidate the new institutions of State and supporting security-sector reform.

7. In West Africa, great strides had been made by two peace operations. In Liberia, the progress of the United Nations Mission (UNMIL) in implementing its mandate and, in particular, supporting the political process and transition had led to the beginning of a gradual drawdown of the Mission's troop strength. Sierra Leone had recently concluded free and credible elections and a peaceful hand-over of power to a new government, with minimal support provided by the United Nations Integrated Office (UNIOSIL), constituting a milestone both for Sierra Leone and the continuance of UNIOSIL's exit strategy.

8. Those new and ongoing challenges continued to underscore the need for the machinery of peacekeeping to run ever more effectively and efficiently. His Department was proceeding vigorously to strengthen United Nations peacekeeping and implement the "Peace Operations 2010" reform programme launched in 2005. The restructuring package adopted in the summer of 2007 was a major step towards that goal, strengthening capacities and structure to implement the vision of that programme.

9. Such restructuring must result in a real difference on the ground for both peacekeeping personnel and the people they were deployed to serve. While it was being undertaken with all deliberate speed, the restructuring would require significant investments of time, effort and resources. Full restructuring of Headquarters peacekeeping capacities would be effective as of June 2008, one year after the decision of the Member States to restructure, with significant elements progressively put in place.

10. Turning to the specifics of the restructuring, he recalled that seven Integrated Operational Teams, or IOTs, designed to ensure integrated support to United Nations peace operations, had originally been proposed, with six specialist officers (two military, two police and two support officers) in each team. The General Assembly had approved 25 out of the 42 requested specialist officers. Given the subsequent authorization of UNAMID, and in view of the lower number of posts approved, it had been decided that six IOTs, of mixed composition, were the minimum required to effectively implement that key pillar of the restructuring package and ensure that all of the four current Office of Operations' regional divisions had IOT capacity, though not all would enjoy the full capacity of specialist resources. To provide even that minimal coverage, some additional specialist-officer positions were required, and some additional posts had been requested to support Darfur in the UNAMID budget, while the remaining additional positions would be sought in the context of the next Support Account budget proposal. In the meantime, the new specialist and political affairs officer posts, also included in the budget submission, had been advertised on the Galaxy website or circulated to Member States.

11. He considered the Darfur IOT to be of highest priority, given the unprecedented scale, complexity and start-up demands of the Hybrid operation. The Darfur IOT had become operational in late October 2007 through redeployment of existing staff; new staff would follow. The other five IOTs were expected to be functional by January 2008, with recruitment for all specialist posts to be completed by the end of March. Space allocation for those IOTs was, however, a critical issue and his Department continued to coordinate with the Department of Management to identify suitable locations so that IOT staff could be co-located.

12. Following the approval to divide the Africa Division into two Divisions, recruitment for the two new regional Africa Directors was also under way.

13. The Office for Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) had already taken significant steps to provide an integrated and forward-looking approach to United Nations assistance in the area of rule of law and security entities. The establishment of that office reflected the central role that rule-of-law aspects increasingly played in peacekeeping operations, and was aimed at building longer-term sustainability in that vital sector. All relevant DPKO entities had now been brought together into the OROLSI: the Police Division; the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Section, the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Unit, and the Mine Action Service, as well as a security-sector reform capacity. OROLSI's key task was to provide strategic advice and guidance to Missions and Headquarters in the area of rule-of-law and security institutions. In close collaboration with other members of DPKO and DFS, the pillar's units would also concentrate on the planning of field activities, doctrine development, and screening and deployment of personnel as well as identifying and disseminating lessons learned.

14. DPKO was preparing a comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on Security Sector Reform (SSR), as requested by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and also as sought by the Security Council. That represented a unique opportunity to establish a coherent approach to many current SSR activities, and to help institutionalize them across the United Nations system. While the report would focus on the United Nations role in post-conflict and peacekeeping contexts, it would also address the prevention, peacebuilding and longer-term development aspects of SSR, as well as take stock of lessons learned and highlight the reality that United Nations engagement was only one element of a broader international commitment to support States and other

national actors in undertaking SSR. He emphasized that Member States would continue to provide the bulk of support in that regard. The report would be issued by December 2007, subsequent to which DPKO would provide extensive briefings to the Special Committee and other United Nations bodies.

15. The Military Division had been formally reconstituted as the Office of Military Affairs.

16. A Policy, Evaluation and Training Division had been established, comprising the existing Peacekeeping Best Practices Section (PBPS) and the Integrated Training Service (ITS), and small new teams for evaluation and for partnerships. It provided an integrated capacity to evaluate mission progress towards mandate implementation; coordinate, develop and disseminate policy and doctrine; work with existing and new partners; and provide standardized training. The Division played a critical role in providing support to both DPKO and DFS and thus provided a common platform for policy, guidance materials, training and evaluation at Headquarters and in the field.

17. The establishment of a Public Affairs Unit in his Department's front office had created capacity to assist in telling the peacekeeping story more effectively. The newly created position of DPKO Chief of Staff had also been filled, and the Under-Secretary-General's own office had been restructured to include a Situation Centre, which served as a resource to both DFS and DPKO.

18. The restructuring package was a major step forward in the ongoing "Peace Operations 2010" reform programme, aimed at enhancing the professionalism, management and efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping. That programme was centred on five components essential to successful peace operations: personnel, doctrine, partnerships, resources and organization.

19. The personnel entrusted with carrying out his Department's mandates were its most important resource. It was essential to recruit, prepare and retain high-quality personnel, a task made more difficult by the increasingly dangerous and difficult conditions of deployment.

20. However, he emphasized that efforts to increase the number of women in peacekeeping, in particular at the senior leadership level, were being stepped up and that results were already evident, including the recent appointments of a female Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) in Liberia, and Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) in the Sudan, Burundi and Liberia. He was particularly pleased at the appointment of a female Senior Police Adviser in Burundi, and drew attention to the composition of the new Standing Police Capacity, nearly 25 per cent of which was female. While there was still far to go in expanding the role and contribution of women in peacekeeping operations, the momentum towards achieving greater balance was nevertheless building. He called on Member States to work closely with his Department in putting forward suitably qualified female candidates ready and willing to serve in peacekeeping operations.

21. He continued to remain concerned about the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel deployed to the field. To date in 2007 there had been 67 fatalities, 8 of which were the result of malicious acts, including the death of 6 UNIFIL peacekeepers by a roadside bomb, and 2 UNMIS peacekeepers killed in Darfur. Partners on the ground had also been targets, such as in the recent attacks on AMIS troops in Darfur and on national deminers working under the United Nations Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan.

22. The United Nations system continued to take steps aimed at mitigating risks. The 2004 Security Management Model (SMM) developed by the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) and DPKO, and endorsed by the Interagency Security Management Network (IASMN), remained the primary system-wide tool for identifying emerging threats and determining areas of vulnerability. The SMM provided for a comprehensive assessment of operational requirements and established associated risk levels, with mitigating measures accordingly identified and implemented under the authority of the Designated Official/Head of Mission. Since its introduction, that integrated SMM process had been used at all locations where United Nations system personnel were present. Risk assessments were systematically conducted prior to the establishment of a mission, and threats and associated risks to United Nations personnel, premises and equipment were reviewed regularly.

23. Further to a request by the Special Committee, his Department had prepared, in close consultation with DSS, a draft policy outlining the particular arrangements of the United Nations Security

Management System (UNSMS) that could be made applicable to military and police officers, such as Military Observers, Police Officers, and Staff Officers deployed in an individual capacity. A final draft was expected by late 2007.

24. Development of doctrine and guidance, another pillar of "Peace Operations 2010", had progressed well over the past year. The "capstone doctrine" would set out the principles and concepts underpinning how contemporary United Nations peacekeeping operations were planned, managed and conducted.

25. He thanked the Member States for their support and for providing their insightful comments, which would allow the document to be finalized in the coming weeks. His Department saw the capstone doctrine as a "living" document that would need to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to reflect the continuing evolution of United Nations peacekeeping. He hoped to build upon that excellent example of collaboration between DFS and DPKO, Member States and the rest of the United Nations system in producing future versions of the doctrine.

26. Finalization of the capstone doctrine was just one step in the development of a common body of doctrine and policy that would govern the activities of United Nations peacekeeping, and in particular, ensure integration of effort between DFS and DPKO. Peacekeepers in the field needed clear doctrine and guidance, to help them do their jobs in line with existing mandates.

27. On occasion, political demands and expediency could lead to the mandating of joint operations, as was the case with both UNAMID and MINURCAT. While joint operations provided an opportunity to share the burden and develop knowledge and best practices, they inherently brought complexity, and at times required compromise. As such, Member States would have to weigh the benefits of joint operations against their potential impact on effectiveness, especially in complex peacekeeping operations.

28. The year 2007 had witnessed significant collaboration with the European Union. An After Action Review had been held on the 2006 EUFOR deployment to DRC, so as to develop modalities for future cooperation. The tempo of UN-EU cooperation was increasing through the planning for the multidimensional presence in Chad/CAR.

29. The United Nations close cooperation with the African Union (AU) also continued to pick up pace with the planning for the Hybrid operation in Darfur. AU military and police officers had been involved in UNAMID and an AU military liaison officer had been deployed to New York. Military staff assistance had also been provided to AU for planning its Mission to Somalia (AMISOM).

30. As part of his Department's ongoing support for the AU peacekeeping capacity-building programme, it had contributed to such initiatives as the AU rapid deployment concept, a training implementation plan in support of the African Standby Force, and phase 2 of the senior mission leadership course.

31. Over the past year, dialogue with the World Bank had been intensified and guidelines related to joint operational initiatives with the World Bank prepared. Such measures were of critical importance, as national authorities repeatedly faced challenges having not only political and security implications but also complex macroeconomic and social dimensions.

32. As part of his Department's efforts to secure the resources required to improve its operations, it had set up the Standing Police Capacity (SPC); it currently had 17 of the 27 total staff on board, with the remainder due to arrive by the end of 2007. It had commenced operations, including through technical-assessment missions and the planning of the MINURCAT mission, where the first deployment of the SPC was expected to take place. At the same time, plans continued for redeploying the SPC to UNLB Headquarters in Brindisi at the end of 2008 or early 2009.

33. Development had also progressed on enhanced rapidly deployable capacities. Based on a comprehensive review of crisis-response requirements for all DPKO missions, it had been determined that five of the missions were most vulnerable, and a strategic-reinforcement needs assessment was conducted for each. Meetings of selected troop-contributing countries (TCCs) had recently been convened in order to seek commitments, in principle, to contribute operational capabilities to meet requirements for mission-specific enhanced rapidly deployable capacities. The Special Committee would be briefed in that regard and on the outcome of the TCC consultations in mid-December 2007.

34. The Integrated Mission Planning Process (IMPP) was at the core of a comprehensive approach to

mission integration, as it provided for a common, system-wide strategic assessment and the involvement of partners throughout the planning to ensure harmonization between the peacekeeping and broader United Nations system efforts. To date, his Department had drafted guidelines on specific areas of IMPP implementation, developed IMPP training modules for Headquarters and field personnel, and was recruiting a designated IMPP officer.

35. Regrettably, allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers continued to arise. Implementing the zero-tolerance policy required that the Secretariat, the missions and the troop- and police-contributing countries take measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and that, if they took place, they were responded to decisively. That demanded action on many levels, but he stressed the role that managers and commanders at all levels must play in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. He called on Member States to help ensure that contingent commanders understood and took seriously their responsibilities and accountability in that regard.

36. It had been a momentous year for United Nations peacekeeping. His Department had initiated a major reform of the support aspects of peacekeeping, embarked upon the mounting of the largest and most complex peacekeeping operation to date, and continued to support 18 current peacekeeping operations. The continued recourse to United Nations peacekeeping underscored its central role in the United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security. Fulfilling complex operational requirements within the limited resources available required new, flexible, creative and cost-effective approaches, as well as continuously adapted peacekeeping, while always remaining cognizant of lessons learned in the field.

37. Maintaining 140,000 women and men in the field and managing a budget of nearly $7 billion required the continuous support, commitment and engagement of the Member States. He thanked the troop- and police-contributing countries for their indispensable contributions, and welcomed the return of Western troop-contributing countries to United Nations peacekeeping, as a sign of international solidarity. He looked forward to additional deployments from Western contributing countries to missions in Africa. The unprecedented growth of peacekeeping was a clear sign of the trust that the membership placed in it. He also thanked the Member States for their trust in peacekeeping, and hoped to be able to live up to their expectations.

38. However, he cautioned that, as his Department continued to meet the surge in complex demands and new challenges loomed on the horizon, it was essential to remain aware of the risks. Even as DPKO and DFS restructured and absorbed generous new resources, the relative scale of demands in the field remained prodigious. As always, it would be important to ensure that there was a peace to keep, that mandates were achievable and that they were matched with the necessary resources. Strong political support from the Member States would remain the sine qua non for success. The risks were nowhere more apparent than in Darfur, as his Department mounted the most complex and riskiest peacekeeping operation to date.

39. Any success in the continuing effort to reform and strengthen peacekeeping depended largely upon the continued support of the Member States. To keep them fully informed of progress on implementing the restructuring package and, more broadly, of "Peace Operations 2010", informational briefings would be provided to the Special Committee as developments required. The first briefing on restructuring would take place on 8 November 2007.

40. **Ms. Lute** (Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Field Support (DFS)) said that the core mandate of the Department was to mount and sustain peacekeeping operations by providing responsive expertise and support capabilities in the areas of personnel, budget and finance, communications, information technology and logistics. Its main tasks were to rapidly deploy qualified people to the field, including through the early identification of qualified candidates to lead missions; to provide timely logistical support across the full spectrum of operations on the ground, including supplies, transportation and services such as engineering; to establish and maintain voice and data connections with all field locations; to provide comprehensive information through budgets and performance reports on resource allocation and field activities; to provide inputs for planning and decision-making; and, lastly, to keep Member States and other stakeholders informed about those activities. The keys to fulfilling those tasks were expertise and responsiveness in the deployment of three intersecting sets of capabilities: those supplied by troop- and

police-contributing countries, those provided by the United Nations and those contracted for commercially.

41. The challenges faced by DFS arose, firstly, from the sheer scope of peacekeeping, which encompassed over 103,000 peacekeepers, military police and civilians working in 18 missions across 9 time zones. Those missions used more than 200 aircraft and thousands of vehicles, consumed $1.75 million worth of fuel every day and generated enough power to supply the needs of a small city. Over the previous year, more than 100 separate financial submissions had been made to legislative bodies. Communications included 85,000 phone calls every 24 hours and 3.5 million e-mails each month, supported by 450 satellite earth stations, thousands of satellite telephones, tens of thousands of computers, hundreds of servers and tens of thousands of radios, all of which must be kept up and running every day. Some 200 video sessions were held each month with missions in the field and over 250,000 applications had been received through Galaxy.

42. Two thirds of the international field staff had no peacekeeping experience and the staff-turnover rate each year was one in three. Dozens of audits had been carried out, reflecting the increasing size and complexity of peacekeeping and the greater scrutiny being exercised. In 2007, as in the previous three years, the Board of Auditors had issued an unqualified opinion on the financial state of peacekeeping.

43. Turning to the status of restructuring, which had begun four months earlier, she stated that the focus had been on creating capacity, maintaining continuity and building on synergies in the system. Vacancy announcements had been issued to fill the new posts; standard operating procedures had been changed to enhance field support; and offices had been rearranged to co-locate the integrated operating teams. Work was also being done on information technology, procurement and management to handle current and anticipated support issues.

44. With respect to the two new missions in Darfur and Chad, clear benchmarks had been set out in the mandate for UNAMID. One of them was the establishment of headquarters: key communications, personnel and functions had been deployed in El Fasher and were operational.

45. The new organizational chart for the reconfigured DPKO and DFS had been distributed to Committee members. DFS had 394 staff members, of whom 20 per cent were from troop- and police-contributing countries and from countries that hosted peacekeeping missions. Thirty-eight per cent of personnel, and 48 per cent of senior managers, were from developing countries. Fifty-three per cent of staff members were women. The goal was to increase the number of women in the professional ranks and to broaden the geographical representation.

46. The Department of Field Support would report to DPKO and maintain close links through the integrated operating teams, which were crucial in managing the daily operations of field missions. The two departments shared important functions, including the executive office, the chief of staff, senior appointments, conduct and discipline, training, the situation centre, and Board of Inquiry and audit functions. DFS received communications directly from the field concerning issues that required technical or longer-term support in the areas of finance and budgeting, personnel, logistics, communications, information technology, field procurement, conduct and discipline, audits and general administration.

47. Unity of command had been solidified by having the Chief Administrative Officers in the field report to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. Other initiatives were under way to ensure operational support. That included Joint Logistics Operations Centres, which were up and running in some of the more complex missions and had proven to be an effective tool. Tiger teams (on personnel) and Abacus teams (on finance and budgeting) had been deployed in the field to help meet needs. At the urging of the Member States, risk management had been explored in order to anticipate and deal with issues that might arise during missions. A business-design initiative had been undertaken to deal more effectively with staffing, budgeting and logistical support. The aim was, in particular, to improve rapid start-up through fly-away kits, to establish standard operating procedures and to ensure that staff on the ground and at Headquarters understood their roles and responsibilities.

48. It was too early to judge how the new department had improved support services. Senior leadership had become more engaged and problems were being identified and solved more quickly and effectively. Raising the profile of support functions and issues was improving standards and performance, resulting in reduced decision-making times and earlier

identification of gaps, so that operational requirements were better incorporated into planning.

49. Performance targets had been established with respect to personnel, information technology and communications, accommodations and claims reimbursement. Further improvements could be expected as a result of better planning, forecasting and resource management with the use of benchmarking, which would lead to greater responsiveness to the field and better sharing of information.

50. On the issue of senior appointments, the Department of Field Support was working on the early identification of candidates for senior appointments. Secondly, DFS was ensuring a more effective and unified approach to allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation, which were still being raised, although in declining numbers. A victims-assistance policy would be taken up by the Assembly before the end of 2007 and a policy on welfare would be presented in the resumed part of the session. In the area of procurement, she noted that out of annual United Nations procurement of over $2 billion, 84 per cent was for peacekeeping, and 50 per cent of that was carried out locally. A more responsive procurement system was required to deal with the rapidly arising needs of the field. To deal with the chronic personnel vacancy rate, better filters were required to help handle the number of job applications being received through Galaxy.

51. The involvement of Member States in peacekeeping support was crucial. She welcomed their engagement, questions and visits, and would be asking for their help on business design and recruitment. Staff members in the Department recognized that they were answerable to the General Assembly and other stakeholders for their decisions, actions and results. They must maintain high standards on timely recruitment, the equitable geographical distribution of posts at Headquarters, the effective provision of support to troop- and police-contributing countries and missions, transparent tenders, accurate budgets, the efficient use of resources, the proper conduct of troops and staff and the quality of guidance and information. Peacekeeping troops must be well supported, the people of the host country must be respected, and the aims of the United Nations and its Member States must be well served.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 1 November 2007, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Mohamad ..... (Sudan)

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Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

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07-57616 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation) said that the Committee should discuss ways of optimizing the use of resources and carry out an evaluation of peacekeeping operations from the perspective of the various stakeholders, including Member States, United Nations bodies and the Secretariat. The Organization's reform of peacekeeping operations and the establishment of the Department of Field Support (DFS) should enhance peacekeeping capacities. However, DFS had yet to fulfil its commitments, and his delegation called for greater transparency and more consultations with Members States, especially with troop-contributing countries and logistics suppliers.

2. The establishment of the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) would allow the Organization to evaluate the reform process and identify best practices. Those missions reflected a commitment by Member States to contribute actively to peacekeeping missions. With regard to improvements to peacekeeping operations, his delegation welcomed the draft doctrine on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations — Principles and Guidelines (Capstone Doctrine) being circulated by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). However, the draft contained flaws and required further discussion with the participation of Member States and the Secretariat. The draft doctrine identified the need for improving the military expertise of the Security Council, which could be achieved by revitalizing the Military Staff Committee.

3. In line with the focus of United Nations peacekeeping operations on Africa, the Russian Federation had sent an increasing number of peacekeepers to the region and had trained law-enforcement officers from African countries. The National Advanced Training Institute for Interior Ministry Personnel had organized regular courses for peacekeeping candidates from African countries. In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs sent experts to peacekeeping training centres in Ghana and Italy, and had trained peacekeepers from Serbia and Tajikistan.

4. With regard to staffing concerns, his delegation requested clarification on why Russian candidates for police contingents and the civil components of peacekeeping operations had not received responses to their applications. It was concerned by the lack of transparency in the selection process, which was often carried out without announcing vacancies.

5. With regard to the 2008 session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation was concerned by the draft programme of work, which included a break of one week. One way of avoiding that break would be to distribute the draft report in advance so that the regional groups could consolidate their positions before the formal opening of the session.

6. **Mr. del Rosario Ceballos** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group welcomed the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the establishment of the Department of Field Support (DFS). However, it noted with concern the slow pace of the reform and requested information on its status.

7. In order to protect the reputation of the Organization and all staff members, the Rio Group fully supported the policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation. It welcomed the appointment of Mr. Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, as Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Group believed that, following its consideration by Member States, the policy statement and draft strategy (A/60/877) would serve as an effective basis for providing assistance and support to victims. It hoped that General Assembly resolution 61/291 would be implemented in a timely manner in order to strengthen accountability and ensure justice for all parties concerned.

8. The Group emphasized the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as a forum for dialogue and noted the usefulness of its website in providing information and documentation. It hoped that the Committee's reports would continue to be adopted in a timely manner.

9. The Group welcomed the one-year extension of the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The countries of the region had reiterated their support for the Mission by contributing the majority of troops and police

personnel and through other forms of cooperation. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, situated in Santo Domingo, had provided assistance to the Mission in the area of disaster management and had also provided an action plan to States and non-governmental organizations on women, peace and security.

10. Even though peacekeeping operations had grown in number and become increasingly complex, it was important to continue with them until their objectives were met. Peacebuilding activities were essential for avoiding the necessity of further operations.

11. With regard to documentation on peacekeeping, the Rio Group reiterated that all documents should reflect the standard terminology in order to avoid misunderstandings. The draft doctrine on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations — Principles and Guidelines should be finalized through a process of intergovernmental consultation.

12. Given the continuing delays in effecting reimbursements to troop-contributing countries, it was important to address that question. The Group also attached particular importance to training and capacity-building, and urged the Training and Evaluation Service to continue developing national and regional capacities in the field of peacekeeping operations.

13. **Ms. El Alaoui** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, said that peacekeeping operations must observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter and accepted peacekeeping standards, including the consent of the parties, the non-use of force except in self-defence, and impartiality. Peacekeeping operations should show respect for the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention. Given that peacekeeping operations had grown in number and become increasingly complex, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to restructure the Department. However, the responsibilities and mandates of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support had not been clearly delineated. It was important that Member States should share in the lessons learned during the reform process.

14. With regard to the draft Capstone Doctrine, the Non-Aligned Movement viewed it as a work in progress whose aim was to provide practical guidelines. The views of Member States should be taken into account in preparing those guidelines and to adhere to established guiding principles. In particular, replacing the concept of the "non-use of force except in self-defence" with "restraint in the use of force" might change one of the core values of peacekeeping operations. The political context and evolving nature of peacekeeping brought to the forefront a multidimensional complexity, as reflected in the missions in the Sudan and in Chad.

15. The Special Committee should remain the only United Nations forum for reviewing peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and in addition it was necessary to engage troop-contributing countries in a more substantial dialogue with the Security Council and the Secretariat. With regard to UNAMID, offers for participation by African countries supported by the host country should be taken into account, and it was important to maintain the African character of the mission. However, the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations, and regional arrangements should function in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.

16. As to conduct and disciplinary issues, States members of the Non-Aligned Movement supported a policy of zero tolerance and requested the Secretariat to revise existing memorandums of understanding in order to include the recommendations of the Special Committee made in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Those revisions would prevent dissenting interpretations of the jurisdiction of Member States and the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The policy on enhanced rapidly deployable capacities must be finalized through an inclusive process, and ad hoc arrangements should be avoided. Given that States members of the Non-Aligned Movement provided over 80 per cent of peacekeeping personnel, they remained concerned by the current imbalance of geographical representation, both at Headquarters and in the field, of unrepresented and underrepresented troop-contributing countries. They were also concerned over the staffing and structure of DPKO and DFS and emphasized the need to identify suitable candidates to address the imbalances.

17. **Mr. Lobo de Mesquita** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process

countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine, and referring to the unprecedented surge in peacekeeping missions, noted that with the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), the number of peace operations had risen to 20, and the number of peacekeepers was expected to reach 140,000. Clearly, the United Nations was still considered the appropriate forum for addressing international threats to peace and security and its missions were still considered one of its most valuable instruments.

18. The European Union had for years been playing a major role in preserving global peace and security, and regarded its involvement with the United Nations as a cornerstone of its external relations. Its commitment to United Nations peacekeeping operations was demonstrated by the fact that it contributed over 40 per cent of the United Nations peacekeeping budget and over 13 per cent of troop contingents. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and international organizations on peace and security issues was a key factor, as in the United Nations-European Union cooperation in crisis management and the United Nations-African Union agreement to work jointly on conflict prevention, management and resolution. Through its own African Peace Facility, the European Union had contributed hundreds of millions of euros to support African-led peace operations and to enhance the institutional capacities of the African Union and subregional organizations. Furthermore, the European Community had recently adopted an Instrument for Stability to support activities by the United Nations, the African Union or the European Union in Darfur, Chad, the Central African Republic and Somalia.

19. Peacekeeping operations and their cost stood to benefit from stronger United Nations leadership in conflict prevention. The modern United Nations response to global security threats should be to set up peacekeeping operations hand in hand with peacebuilding assistance, development aid and conflict prevention.

20. The safety and security of United Nations personnel was a paramount concern as missions became more dangerous. Missions ought to be equipped with situation-awareness capabilities, early-warning systems and physical protection for mission compounds. Host Governments must bring to justice those responsible for violent acts against peacekeeping personnel. Mission casualties not the result of violence were also a source of concern. Adequate training of peacekeepers — an area in which the European Union was actively assisting the African Union — was, of course, a key to preventing casualties. More information on the risks in mission areas could be enormously helpful: DPKO should share pre-deployment threat assessments with Member States from the early planning stages of a mission. In addition, States would more readily pledge troops if the Secretariat offered the possibility of making reconnaissance visits beforehand.

21. The cases of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel, especially those involving sexual exploitation and abuse, severely harmed the credibility of the United Nations and increased the suffering of the very people the missions were supposed to protect. The European Union strongly supported the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy. More emphasis should be put on prevention by, for instance, offering recreational activities to peacekeepers and personnel in the field and by implementing the revised draft model memorandum of understanding recently adopted, with its provisions for addressing sexual exploitation and abuse within contingents. Expanding on the Secretary-General's draft United Nations policy statement and draft United Nations comprehensive strategy on assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff or related personnel (A/60/877), the Ad Hoc Working Group must produce an effective victim-assistance strategy at its next session.

22. An agreed, updated peacekeeping doctrine would help contributing countries to better educate and train their contingents prior to deployment. The European Union looked forward to the release of the Capstone Doctrine document, and to the development of a full set of related publications.

23. It viewed with some apprehension the recent selectiveness by which certain troop-contributing countries, which had been willing to pledge their contingents to a peace operation, had been excluded. Such an approach undermined the Organization's credibility. Furthermore, it believed that the United Nations was best placed to decide which contingents should be deployed to any given mission, and differing standards as to the strength, training or equipment of

contingents affected a mission's capacity to fulfil its mandate and also made the personnel involved more vulnerable.

24. More information would be appreciated about the progress of the restructuring of the DPKO, which the European Union had wholeheartedly supported from the start, especially regarding the activation of the integrated operational teams, a key tool. Senior staff positions should be filled more expeditiously, unless the delays were actually serving the restructuring process. The proposed security-sector reform and the new rule-of-law competence to be given to the Secretariat seemed promising. Also, the restructuring of the Office of Military Affairs could draw lessons from the experience of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and its strategic military cell.

25. Better communication between the Secretariat and Member States would attract stronger support, especially if information was provided systematically on the implementation of the enhanced rapidly deployable capacities and the integrated mission planning process.

26. **Ms. Graham** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, emphasized the importance of peace operations in supporting fragile nations and helping to restore a level of normality to the lives of the people so badly affected by conflict. The surge in peacekeeping had put an unparalleled strain on the Secretariat and Member States alike. The restructuring of Headquarters capacities by strengthening, realigning and integrating them in keeping with the Peace Operations 2010 priorities would be lengthy but was necessary for the safe and efficient conduct of those operations. Progress on integrated operations teams and the integrated mission planning process was particularly important, and the proposed strengthening of the mediation and conflict-resolution capacity of the Department of Political Affairs was encouraging. Everything must be done to avoid duplication of personnel and functions and to establish an organizational structure able to coordinate all departments involved in field operations. How the United Nations could best provide unified leadership, supported by strategic analysis and planning, was an important matter for discussion.

27. Conflict and post-conflict situations should encompass security, political and economic affairs, development aid and humanitarian assistance. Australia, Canada and New Zealand looked forward to the day when the United Nations system would be able to manage the seamless transition from conflict prevention to peacebuilding. They would also like to see progress on a number of the components of the restructuring. The inability to respond rapidly remained a major impediment to peacekeeping operations, and there should be constructive engagement with all troop-contributing countries in order to advance the policy for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities. Human resources reform, as applied to peacekeeping, would retain expertise, facilitate mobility between Headquarters and the field and between missions, provide requisite training at all levels throughout the careers of civilian field staff, offering equitable conditions to staff working in harshest environments, and in general ensure a rapidly deployable and sustainable civilian peacekeeping capacity.

28. There had been disappointing delays in the recruitment for the Standing Police Capacity and the 2,500 posts should be filled as soon as possible. The establishment of the proposed military staff capacity, another contributor to mission start-up, had also faltered.

29. Reform of the security sector should be undertaken in concert with the host government, and new capacity-building and civilian-oversight mechanisms should be consistently included in integrated-mission mandates.

30. The responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity was crucial and thus the Secretary-General's appointment of a Special Adviser was welcome.

31. The development of the draft Capstone Doctrine by the Department had been one of the successes of the past year, providing an important framework for understanding how the Department conducted peace operations. Australia, Canada and New Zealand would help develop documentation that would complement the doctrine.

32. The problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel stained the integrity of the United Nations, especially when such incidents continued to be perpetrated with impunity. Nevertheless, the integration of conduct and discipline provisions into the draft model memorandum of

understanding by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should help ensure accountability, as should the Secretariat's focus on training programmes and recreation initiatives for peacekeeping personnel, as well as the Sixth Committee's concomitant consideration of the question of criminal accountability of United Nations staff members and experts on mission. All Member States were urged to support the adoption by the General Assembly of the proposed victim-assistance strategy, and recent efforts to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping both in the field and at Headquarters deserved encouragement.

33. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat must provide strong leadership, clear and useable doctrine and a high level of coordinated support commensurate with the safe and effective conduct of peace operations.

34. **Mr. Ali** (Sudan) said that internal and international conflicts had increased demand for peacekeeping activities and, consequently, the military role played by the United Nations. The United Nations should allocate more resources to preventive diplomacy and peacemaking and capitalize on public confidence in the United Nations in order to strengthen concepts of dialogue, promote problem-solving through negotiation and disseminate the culture of peace. It should also bring to justice those who caused tension and spread violence. The root causes needed to be addressed and more resources should be directed to development projects, combating poverty and disease and strengthening economic and social development.

35. His Government welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), under which the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) had been established, and reaffirmed that it would cooperate fully with the parties concerned to ensure the success of the operation, to which it had already extended considerable logistical and other support. It also pointed to the importance of full commitment to the terms of reference of the operation, most importantly that it should be entirely African.

36. Efforts must focus on the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in Darfur. Peace negotiations with some armed factions were currently being hosted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in Sirt. Some factions had not attended those negotiations, however, and preferred to stand against the international, regional and local desire for peace and an end to the killing, the price of which was being paid by ordinary people, and to benefit materially from the conflict. The United Nations should strongly condemn and punish that behaviour, which obstructed peace efforts.

37. His country was working hard to restore peace and development. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement had ended 20 years of war and the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement had entered into force. His Government had entered the current negotiations in Sirt in good faith, announcing a unilateral ceasefire. The previous day, the Arab League had issued recommendations on humanitarian assistance to Darfur, resulting in generous support. The efforts of the African Union and also the League of Arab States and the United Nations in Darfur were appreciated, as was the unique partnership involved in the hybrid operation, which would serve as a model for regional cooperation, in line with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. The dual focus of the United Nations and the international family on development and reconstruction, as emphasized in Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), was to be commended.

38. The Capstone Doctrine should remain focused on the technical and practical aspects of peacekeeping operations; involvement in unclear or disputed political issues should be avoided. The expansion and increased complexity of peacekeeping operations should not undermine the reasons behind their historic success, attributable to the basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping operations, which had preserved its reputation, credibility and neutrality. Moreover, the principles expressed in the Charter with regard to sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs should be respected.

39. His delegation considered that the restructuring of DPKO should go beyond effectiveness, transparency and consultation with the States concerned by ensuring respect for their citizens, strict accounting and no tolerance of mismanagement or of sexual exploitation and abuse, such as that involving United Nations forces in the south of the Sudan; it should also ensure the just geographical distribution of posts, reduction of expenditure and the inclusion of a clear exit strategy in mission planning. It was to be hoped that humanitarian non-governmental organizations would abide by a code of conduct ruled out interfering in the internal affairs of States and threatening their unity and stability. In

that context, the international community should condemn the outrageous acts and conduct of the French non-governmental organization involved in the trafficking and forced displacement of children from Darfur.

40. His delegation appreciated the outstanding efforts of the United Nations to achieve global peace and stability, and offered condolences to the families and friends of those soldiers from Nigeria, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Burundi who had died in the rebel attack in Haskanita. It expressed its unequivocal rejection and condemnation of any hostility against peacekeepers, and its wish for peace for all.

41. **Mr. Taleb** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, over the past 50 years, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) had overcome many challenges and established itself as the principal multilateral entity for the maintenance of international peace and security. It played a vital role in reducing tension and contributing to conflict resolution, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. Although peacekeeping operations had become more complex in recent years, they had proven their effectiveness in performing their diverse tasks, from the observance of ceasefire agreements to the colossal challenge posed by territorial administration, and had demonstrated their ability to deal with threats to global peace and security.

42. Peacekeeping operations should be considered as a temporary measure to prevent the deterioration of conflicts, resolve them and establish a sound basis for the transition to peacebuilding. It was necessary to address the underlying reasons for conflicts in a serious manner, as well as to coordinate with the Economic and Social Commissions and donor countries.

43. His country appreciated the sacrifices made by leaders, individuals and operational units throughout the world and, in particular in the Middle East, notably the death of the four international observers with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in August 2006, when Israeli warplanes bombarded the United Nations site at al-Khiyam in an apparently premeditated attack on an observer site. The attack on the Spanish UNIFIL unit in June 2007, resulting in the death of six soldiers, should also be remembered. Tribute was also due to those clearing mines in southern Lebanon and those who had died doing so.

44. His country's relations with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) were excellent. Peacekeeping operations in the Middle East were measured in decades and, in the case of UNTSO, had lasted for more than half a century. Peace in the region remained elusive because of Israel's continuing defiance of legitimate international resolutions, its escalation of regional tension, its hostility against its neighbours and its occupation of their territories.

45. His delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the principles and guidelines of peacekeeping operations, rapid deployment, recruitment and reimbursement of arrears. It also emphasized that peacekeeping operations must abide by their mandates and respect the basic principles of the Charter, which made the consent of host countries a prerequisite for the deployment of peacekeeping operations. There was a need for credible, clear and viable mandates, drafted through a non-selective institutional and legislative framework that did not apply double standards, to maintain the credibility and integrity of the United Nations. Responsibility for financing peacekeeping operations lay with the aggressor, in keeping with the principles expressed in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV).

46. His delegation was prepared to participate in any deliberations on the important issues raised by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. It emphasized the need to strengthen security measures and procedures at United Nations mission offices to protect staff, as well as the need for a genuine partnership between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries with regard to mission planning, preparation and organization. His delegation was confident that the recommendations of the Under-Secretary-General would be given serious in-depth consideration by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

47. **Mr. Berrah** (Algeria) observed that, as the Organization sought to prevent and contain global tensions, it should constantly improve and modernize the capacities, principles and rules of engagement of its peacekeeping missions, whose success depended in large measure on a clear mandate. DPKO was to be commended for its restructuring pursuant to the Peace Operations 2010 agenda, and for its study of ways to make peacekeeping operations more harmonious and efficient. That was a complex task, owing to the constant evolution and complexity of missions,

requiring a flexible approach and concerted efforts by all concerned.

48. Algeria hoped that the draft Capstone Doctrine would soon be completed in consultation with all Member States, especially the troop-contributing countries. As the document was currently drafted, it touched on aspects that fell within the exclusive purview of States. For example, the broad interpretation it gave of the three basic principles of United Nations peacekeeping — consent, impartiality and non-use of force except in self-defence — and their coupling with new concepts like credibility and national ownership amplified their meaning but also gave them a political character on which not all Member States were in agreement.

49. The broad consultations undertaken by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse were encouraging: they would produce a strategy and would also restore some of the confidence in the United Nations — lost because of the reprehensible acts committed by irresponsible members of its mission . All should work together to define the concepts and responsibilities involved, and to ensure adequate assistance to the victims, bearing in mind the parallel investigation being conducted on the criminal responsibility of United Nations staff members and experts on mission, in order to adopt a common approach to the sanctions to be applied against the perpetrators.

50. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba) said that peacekeeping operations had grown to be the single largest item in the budget of the Organization and had also become increasingly multidimensional and complex. Her delegation therefore supported the recent establishment of a Department of Field Support in the hope that it would lead to greater efficiency in peacekeeping operations, in particular with regard to command at both the field and headquarters levels. She reiterated however that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations was the sole official forum for consideration of the issue of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects.

51. She stressed the need to address the underlying causes of conflicts and recalled that peacekeeping operations were merely a temporary measure aimed at providing a secure environment for the implementation of a long-term plan for the sustainable economic and social development necessary to prevent a vicious circle of new conflict and new peacekeeping operations. The principles that provided a framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations must be respected and in that context she expressed concern that the draft Capstone Doctrine document did not adequately reflect the principles enshrined in the Charter, including sovereignty, non-intervention, consent of the parties and non-use of force except in self-defence. She underscored that peacekeeping operations should have clear mandates and objectives and adequate resources to ensure success and, while recognizing the useful role that could be played by regional arrangements, said that such arrangements should not supplant the United Nations and must respect the principles contained in Chapter VIII of the Charter.

52. There should be greater consultation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries, most of which were developing countries, with a view to giving the troop-contributing countries greater input at all phases of the decision-taking process relating to peacekeeping operations. Recruitment at the field and Headquarters levels should respect the principle of geographic distribution and there should be greater transparency in the appointment of high-level posts, in order to achieve an appropriate balance between the developing and developed countries.

53. Her delegation supported the zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeeping personnel, and looked forward to a revision of the understanding between troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat during the current session, based on the agreement reached in the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on standards of conduct for personnel contributed by Member States. She welcomed efforts aimed at developing a strategy for the protection of the victims of sexual abuse.

54. **Ms. Jahan** (Bangladesh) said that peacekeeping operations had become increasingly multidimensional, involving not only monitoring or enforcing peace but also such responsibilities as protecting civilians, humanitarian assistance, organizing elections, and judicial and security reforms. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding currently overlapped and reinforced each other in establishing a lasting peace.

55. Her delegation's active role in peacekeeping had begun in the 1980s. It had contributed more than 70,000 troops and currently had 10,000 peacekeepers deployed in 12 operations; as many as 81 Bangladeshi peacekeepers had died in carrying out their duty. Bangladesh had already offered to contribute to the joint African Union-United Nations mission in Darfur.

56. She welcomed the institutionalization of peacebuilding and the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Support Office and Peacebuilding Fund and the creation of the Department of Field Support, which she hoped would bring a new dynamism to peacekeeping operations. She expressed concern however that, in spite of providing more than 10 per cent of peacekeepers during the previous 12 years, Bangladesh was underrepresented at Headquarters, especially at the senior level. That issue must be addressed and, stressing that full participation of troop-contributing countries at every stage of peacekeeping decision-taking and planning must be institutionalized, she recalled General Assembly resolution 61/279, which requested the Secretary-General to ensure the proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

57. Lastly, she expressed disappointment that the reputation and accomplishments of peacekeeping operations were sometimes tainted by allegations of abuse and misconduct by the peacekeepers themselves and of corruption in procurement in the field and at Headquarters. Such improprieties must be dealt with firmly and in a spirit of zero tolerance in order to maintain confidence in peacekeeping operations.

58. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that his delegation's participation in peacekeeping missions was the most tangible demonstration of its commitment to multilateralism and the irreplaceable role of the United Nations in meeting the challenges of global peace and security. Pakistan had been one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping missions, and the leading contributor since 2003, with more than 10,600 personnel currently deployed. It was also among the top providers of police and military observers and had recently started deploying women in peacekeeping contingents. In keeping with its policy of support for and friendship with Africa, 95 per cent of its peacekeepers were deployed in missions in Africa.

59. The growing demand for United Nations peacekeeping missions testified to the growing confidence of the international community in the Organization. The Organization must however reform peacekeeping in order to adapt to new challenges and ensure continued success through better management of peacekeeping operations. While much had been achieved since the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations in 2001 (the Brahimi Report), much remained to be done. Sustained effort, additional resources and greater political will were needed for the long-term success of peacekeeping. There should be a shared vision of peacekeeping and he cautioned against confusing United Nations peacekeeping missions with other types of operations led by non-United Nations entities, such as peace-enforcement missions, which should be avoided, even if authorized by the Security Council, in order to preserve the neutrality and legitimacy of the Organization.

60. Notwithstanding the changing nature of conflict and the corresponding evolution in peacekeeping, it was unacceptable to stray from the basic principles agreed by Member States: impartiality, consent of the parties and non-use of force except in self-defence. He therefore stressed that the Capstone Doctrine document should be apolitical and focus on operational and practical aspects and avoid contentious issues on which there was no consensus among Member States.

61. Mission planning should include all stages, from peacekeeping through post-conflict peacebuilding, with greater emphasis on conflict prevention, peaceful settlement of disputes and the underlying causes of disputes, in order to ensure a lasting peace. Conflict prevention was much less costly than conflict management; accordingly, since most conflicts occurred in the developing world, greater effort must be made to promote development as a means of preventing conflict.

62. The Security Council had increasingly dealt with intra-State conflicts, with good effect, particularly in Africa, but he stressed that such actions should respect national sovereignty and territorial integrity. In accordance with the Charter, it should do more to promote lasting solutions to inter-State conflicts that endangered international peace and security, where its record was less impressive. Considerable headway had been made in promoting comprehensive approaches in intra-State conflicts, in particular in the integrated

missions, but greater coherence between peacekeeping and peacebuilding mechanisms, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission, was necessary for more effective conflict prevention and resolution.

63. The developed countries must show greater political will to contribute personnel for mission training, capacity-building should be assigned a higher priority, and there should be a strategic review of the capacity to carry out basic peacekeeping activities. The issue of the safety and security of peacekeepers was of particular interest to troop-contributing countries. Lessons learned and best practices must be systematically applied.

64. The problems associated with the hybrid mission in Darfur exemplified the disconnect between the Security Council's objectives and realities on the ground. He cautioned that political considerations should not be allowed to erode the credibility of the United Nations. He also called for increased operational capacity, particularly enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, and looked forward to an inclusive and transparent discussion of that issue in the working group.

65. Peacekeeping reform should involve all stakeholders, particularly troop-contributing countries, at all stages and at senior levels, both in the field and at Headquarters. He endorsed the view that the Department of Field Support should be headed by a candidate from the developing countries. He expressed concern however that, as predicted by his delegation, the establishment of that Department had affected coherence and control, placing an increased burden on the troop-contributing countries faced with the need to coordinate with two Departments, and he therefore looked forward to the midterm review in June 2008.

66. Cooperation between the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat, as well as with regional arrangements, should be strengthened. While full advantage must be taken of the comparative advantages of regional arrangements, the United Nations must retain primary responsibility for international peace and security and the Organization must continue to command and control all United Nations missions, including the new type of mission such as in Darfur, Chad and the Central African Republic. There must be no unequal treatment of missions, and hybrid operations should be the exception, not the rule. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations should closely examine the issue of hybrid missions as well as the Capstone Doctrine document.

67. While policies were decided at Headquarters, the success of missions depended on the peacekeepers on the ground and he paid tribute to their professionalism and devotion to duty. Recalling that the primary mission of the Organization was the maintenance of international peace and security, he stressed the need to promote that goal through multilateral actions in accordance with the Charter and to eschew unilateral actions that might erode rather than strengthen peace and security.

68. **Mr. Mungkalaton** (Thailand) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Morocco outlining the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the issue of peacekeeping operations, but wished to highlight some important issues of concern to Thailand.

69. While emphasizing the importance of peacekeeping, and of the need for peacekeeping operations to remain a relevant and indispensable mechanism for the United Nations as well as other international organizations in promoting international peace and security, he said that the current surge in demand for peacekeeping activities for the Organization, along with their complexity and the emergence of new tasks for military contingents, required the utmost effort to ensure that they were carried out in accordance with the basic principles of peacekeeping as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

70. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/256 on strengthening of the capacity of the Organization in peacekeeping operations, it was important to evaluate the progress of the realignment process. The decision for realignment required further improvement in order to ensure regularized routine consultations among all major stakeholders, DPKO and DFS. Future peacekeeping reforms should be based on transparency, coherence, coordination and unity of command. Of equal importance, the recruitment of appropriate skilled experts at higher levels in DPKO and DFS should be based on equitable geographical and/or regional distribution. He urged the United Nations to engage constructively with the Member States to address that matter.

71. Thailand welcomed the integrated mission concept, which would cover the current multifaceted aspects of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, such as security, economics, human rights and development. It also considered that increasing the participation of developing countries was a key element.

72. His delegation fully acknowledged the paramount importance of peacekeeping training. The Thai Government had begun training its military and civilian police under a national plan of action on strengthening its African peacekeeping capacity. Up to 1,000 troops had been trained for future United Nations peacekeeping operations, particularly in Africa.

73. He noted the importance of the United Nations and the regional arrangements, and the prominent role that regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU), had played in maintaining peace in the world. Those and other encouraging developments had shown that many countries, especially those in Africa, were increasingly willing and able to take over peacekeeping operations within their regions despite a lack of resources.

74. However, the establishment of the complex and unique peacekeeping operation in Darfur (UNAMID) demonstrated that regional arrangements needed to be strong and well coordinated, and required close cooperation with the United Nations. He also reiterated the Non-Aligned Movement's long-standing position that the United Nations had the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and that its primary role must be maintained in the new generation of peacekeeping operations. Thailand would continue to participate actively in the discussion of regional arrangements for stronger and more effective peacekeeping methods and mechanisms.

75. **Ms. Juul** (Norway) said that she looked forward to the update on the realignment of the Secretariat, and underlined the importance of appointing the head of DFS as soon as possible. The rising demand for peacekeeping operations, increased the pressure on Member States to provide qualified personnel and trained units, and underscored the need to improve operational planning and management.

76. The United Nations was unable to meet the current daunting peace and security challenges on its own, but Norway stood by its commitments to Africa and the United Nations in that regard. She commended the African Union (AU) for its efforts to develop its peacekeeping capacity, while at the same time taking on very demanding operational responsibilities in Darfur and Somalia. Norway would continue to assist AU in developing the civilian dimension of the African Stand-by Force through its "Training for Peace", a long-standing Norwegian programme for civilian capacity-building in Africa. The most pressing need in relation to the new operations in Africa was the enormous demand for all categories of personnel. If the United Nations standards for finding properly qualified personnel were not maintained, the organization's credibility would be undermined.

77. Norway acknowledged that UNAMID should have a predominantly African character, but at the same time it was essential that non-African nations should also take part, both to reflect the universal mandate of the United Nations and to provide key force enablers. Norway was prepared to contribute to a joint Nordic engineering unit for Darfur, paving the way for the deployment of the main operation. It would also assist in training African police officers for UNAMID.

78. Meeting the expectations of the people of Darfur would be a major challenge for UNAMID. It was important to engage the civilian population in a dialogue on the mission's mandate at an early stage, so as to prevent unrealistic expectations and to foster local ownership. Local ownership, involving both men and women, was a key part of the exit strategy for the operation. Norway welcomed the communications strategy developed for the Darfur peace talks, engaging civilian society, community leaders and Arab groups.

79. Norway had recently hosted a high-level conference on United Nations multidimensional and integrated peace operations. It hoped that the recommendations in the final project report would further the reform agenda and help to ensure a more coherent United Nations response on the ground. Norway supported a strengthening of United Nations relations with and between regional organizations. Old habits and institutional protectionism must be replaced with a transparent and flexible approach.

80. With regard to Afghanistan, she called for an enhanced United Nations role in coordinating efforts on the ground and between capitals.

81. Norway welcomed the willingness of EU to provide a military component to support the United Nations operations in Chad and the Central African

Republic, without which the Organization would be unable to fulfil its own mandate.

82. Given the growing use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, it was all the more important that UNAMID personnel complied with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy. She urged Member States to help finalize a comprehensive strategy to assist victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel, and hoped that agreement could be reached by the ad hoc working group in December. An important factor in the zero-tolerance policy was ensuring good working conditions for personnel in the field. Training and awareness-raising must continue, and Member States should ensure that crimes perpetrated by United Nations personnel did not go unpunished. Awareness-raising in relation to gender must also continue.

83. Further training was also needed in the area of intelligence, which was key to the protection of personnel and the implementation of mission mandates. Norway appreciated the progress made so far. Together with the other Nordic countries, it was currently engaged in discussions with DPKO on the development of training programmes for personnel serving in functions where intelligence was a strategic component.

84. Norway looked forward to the final version of the Capstone Doctrine. The time had come for an update of the force-generation process. Norway proposed that an open-ended working group should be established to deal with that issue.

85. In conclusion, she reiterated Norway's strong support of the United Nations and its peacekeeping efforts, and paid tribute to all the personnel who had made the ultimate sacrifice to bring about peace.

86. **Ms. Ribeiro Viotti** (Brazil) said that Brazil was proud of its contribution to peacekeeping missions and paid tribute to all those peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the service of peace.

87. Peacekeeping missions must be provided with adequate resources at Headquarters and in the field, and the Security Council must define mandates aimed at meeting the challenges on the ground. The General Assembly and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations likewise had a responsibility to ensure the success of peacekeeping missions. She expressed the hope that the realignment of DPKO and the establishment of DFS would result in a Secretariat that was stronger, more efficient and more responsive to the needs of peacekeeping missions, and underscored the importance of the Special Committee's recommendations. She said that lessons learned must be taken into account but the unique characteristics of each mission must likewise be borne in mind. The principles of consent of the parties, use of force only in self-defence and impartiality must be respected and any major change in the approach to peacekeeping must be decided by Member States.

88. Current peacekeeping missions had increasingly broad mandates that encompassed more than military considerations. They could support development-related activities and work to create an environment suitable for economic growth. Thus, peacekeeping and peacebuilding should be seen as mutually reinforcing.

89. In the context of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Brazil and fellow Latin American countries had specific development-related tasks, such as the quick-impact projects, which provided the population with peace dividends and promoted goodwill. Considerable success had also been achieved in the fight against criminal gangs, but that success must be consolidated with institution-building and economic growth. Long-term stability would require political reconciliation, security and development and she welcomed efforts by MINUSTAH in that regard. In addition to contributing troops, including the Force commander, and police, her Government had several cooperation projects in Haiti and encouraged donor countries to complement the work of MINUSTAH; only a holistic approach would ensure success.

90. **Ms. Shanidze** (Georgia) said that her delegation fully supported the restructuring of DPKO and DFS, since that would contribute to a more effective peacekeeping process. When conducted impartially and professionally, peacekeeping was indeed one of the most dignified activities. Unfortunately the same could not be said of the so-called Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia, Georgia.

91. For 14 years her country had been witnessing the aftermath of an inefficient and ineffective peacekeeping operation. The peacekeepers deployed in the conflict zone were tasked with maintaining the ceasefire and separation of forces, and also were

mandated to create conditions for the secure return of a half million refugees who had been ethnically cleansed from the territory of Abkhazia. During that time the situation had in fact deteriorated. As an example, she cited an incident on the previous day in which a Russian peacekeeping unit had assaulted and detained Georgian officials guarding a youth peace camp in Georgian territory; they had been released only after the intervention of Georgian police.

92. The unprovoked attack was in direct violation of the CIS mandate. The incident was the latest in a series of destabilizing acts by the Russian side aimed at undermining the peace process in Abkhazia. It followed an incident in August 2007 in which a Russian fighter jet had fired an anti-radar missile on Georgian territory as well as a September incident when Georgian police units had come under attack from armed Abkhaz separatist saboteurs, led by former members of the CIS peacekeeping forces. Her delegation strongly condemned those arbitrary acts of adventurism by the Russian CIS peacekeepers, and urged the Russian side to immediately cease reckless acts that raised tension in the region.

93. Georgia had repeatedly stated that the deployment of peacekeeping forces comprising military personnel of the neighbouring country that was providing political, economic and military support to the separatist regime was illogical, cynical and controversial. Deployment of peacekeeping forces should be conducted only when the impartiality of that neighbouring country was absolutely beyond doubt.

94. Regrettably, the peace process aimed at solving the conflict in Abkhazia had resulted in no tangible outcome. The current situation on the ground was deteriorating, as ineffective and biased negotiating and peacekeeping formats directly contributed to creeping annexation of Georgian territory.

95. Acknowledging the discretion of each country to set its own policy on troop formation, she noted a potentially provocative trend in which Russian defence officials were introducing units from Chechnya into peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia, Georgia. Given the history of the conflict, such actions might be designed to plant the seed of mistrust in complex inter-ethnic relations in the region. That mistrust deepened with recognition that the existing format of the peacekeeping operations was no longer adequate to facilitate real reconciliation. With the majority of the population living in Abkhazia having been granted Russian citizenship, it became clear that the peacekeeping force was not an impartial international formation carrying out the responsibilities spelled out in its mandate, but rather a force that worked to artificially alienate the sides from one another. That, in turn, cast doubt on the effectiveness of the peacekeeping process carried out under the aegis of the United Nations.

96. It was her delegation's belief that the United Nations had the capacity to move the peace process into a new phase where true progress would become possible. Effective conflict resolution in Abkhazia required changes in the current peacekeeping format; there was a need to start a fundamentally new international peacekeeping operation.

97. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan firmly supported the United Nations peacekeeping activities and its efforts to reinforce its capacity in that sphere. Her delegation strongly believed that international peacekeeping operations under the aegis of the United Nations remained the most effective tool to prevent and settle crises and to ensure global and regional stability. With the demand for United Nations peacekeeping missions growing each year and becoming increasingly complex, there was clearly an imperative need to further strengthen the authority of the United Nations and to increase the responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

98. Kazakhstan fully supported the "Peace Operations 2010" reform agenda and the Secretary-General's efforts aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Secretariat and improving peacekeeping operations. It entirely shared the view that the peacekeeping capacity should be further improved and strictly based on the Charter of the United Nations, and welcomed the draft Capstone Doctrine, which provided guidance on United Nations peacekeeping activities.

99. She noted with satisfaction the increase in the number of participants in the standby-arrangements system, which currently included Kazakhstan. Her delegation also supported the proposed measures for rapid deployment and other field operations.

100. Her delegation supported efforts to develop close partnerships between the United Nations system and the existing regional arrangements and other

intergovernmental organizations. In that context, it hoped the adoption of a coherent concept of such partnerships, with the involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, could facilitate efforts to develop a coordinated partnership system. It was important to establish closer cooperation with regional organizations possessing real capacity to prevent conflicts and maintain peace, and to set up regional centres to train peacekeepers. In that connection Kazakhstan encouraged DPKO to develop coherent, operational strategies and early integrated-mission planning in close cooperation with other actors within and outside the United Nations system. Kazakhstan also supported proposals to further improve the efficiency of the peacekeeper-training system at the national and regional levels, with standardized training and participation in multinational and multidimensional peacekeeping exercises.

101. She noted with satisfaction the growing understanding of the vital role of women in peacemaking and peacekeeping. Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security was a milestone in that regard.

102. Her delegation endorsed the recommendations and conclusions contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It hoped the recommendations put forward in those reports and during the general debate on the item would help in improving the efficiency of United Nations peacekeeping.

103. **Mr. Zaemsky** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had been compelled to take the floor several times after statements by Georgia on the question of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia. The Fourth Committee was supposed to discuss fundamental issues of peacekeeping, not private claims and assertions, all the more so since those assertions were absolutely without merit. Simply consulting the text of Security Council resolution 1781 (2007), the latest resolution on the question, was sufficient for an understanding of what was at issue. That resolution clearly indicated the non-implementation by Georgia of the previous agreements. By its actions, Georgia was hindering implementation of the mandate as created by the Security Council and threatened the safety of the peacekeepers; it was doing nothing to implement confidence-building measures. His delegation was convinced that that was the real reason for the lack of progress in the Georgia-Abkhazia settlement. In any case, it was not the fault of the peacekeepers.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.